Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
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FBIS-NES-95-179 *15 September 1995*

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab-Iranian Symposium Argues for 'Special Alliance'

MM1409092595 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 12 Sep 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Arab and Iranian Academics and Politicians Prepare for Historical Reconciliation and Special Alliance"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, AL-QUDS AL-ARABI — The Doha Sheraton Hotel is currently the venue for a symposium, unique of its kind, which is attempting to form an Iranian-Arab alliance that will save Iraq from the present blockade, put an end to the arms race, and confront the increasing U.S.-Israeli hegemony in the region.

The symposium, organized by the Center for Arab Unity Studies in cooperation with Qatar University, opened yesterday and has generated great academic and media interest due to the participation of an elite of Arab and Iranian experts.

It is apparent from the opening speeches, the research and studies put forward, and the interviews given by some participants to the dynamic Qatari newspapers, that there is a desire to build future relations based on rapprochement rather than conflict or competition. All speakers, especially in the morning and afternoon sessions, which focused mainly on historic ties between the two sides, ignored all negative aspects, and focused instead on the positive ones.

The well-known historian Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Duri painted a rosy picture in his paper, and shed light on the nonexistence of any Arab interference in the Ottoman-Safawis war that lasted 400 years.

Dr. Khayr-al-Din Hasib, head of the center and the symposium's prime mover, did not address the issue of the Iraq-Iran war in his speech, but instead stressed that relations between the Arabs and Iran have special features making them different from those between the Arabs and other neighboring states. He added that Iran has made special and effective contributions to Arab Islamic culture, and that, theoretically, ties between Arabs and Iranians are much more than those between them and other neighboring countries. All participants agree that the timing of the symposium, described as a dialogue for the future on an unofficial level between Arab and Iranian political and academic elite, comes at a time when the United States is trying, although by different ways and means, to do to Iran and Syria what it did to Iraq. Qatari interests thus require that these three states reach a strategic alliance between them, which would be open to Egypt to join, when it rids itself of its current shackles, as Dr. Hasib put it. Dr. Mahmud Sari'-al-Qalam, head of the Center for Strategic Studies in Tehran and the most prominent among 21 Iranian academics and politicians attending the symposium, was keen to dispel the fears of his Arab counterparts and stated that Iran is in a rebuilding phase, does not represent a threat to its neighbors, and that Arabs and Iranians need a direct dialogue without Western mediation. He demanded the creation of a common economic background that would impose or pave the way for political alliances in the future.

Hani al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member and first Palestinian ambassador to Tehran — and the only Palestinian to attend the conference besides our colleague 'Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan — believes that an Arab-Iranian alliance is the only option to confront Israeli pressure in the region.

However, Dr. 'Ali Shams Ardakani, former Iranian ambassador to Kuwait and a well-known oil expert, sees the necessity for preparing the background first before indulging hopes.

Dr. Ardakani pointed to the clear signs of the West's decline and the renewal of Islam in the past decades and its rapid growth in the West (the fastest-growing religion in the United States), a compelling factor for Iranians and Arabs to forge an alliance, in the light of the far-reaching results of their former performance and as a guarantee for their future. There can only be either mutual prosperity or mutual failure in the region.

Dr. Jasim al-Sa'dun, economic advisor to the Kuwaiti National Assembly, used the language of numbers and focused his research on the need to stop the arms race and work instead toward achieving a common Arab economic unity. He predicted an increase in the demand for oil and increased prosperity and stability for the region. This proved controversial for several participants, especially Dr. Walid Khadduri, who agreed with the increase in demand for oil, not OPEC oil, but that from other producers.

He said that inter-Arab disagreements and Arab-Iranian disagreements weaken OPEC and its control over production and prices.

Dr. al-Sa'dun predicted the appearance of a triple polarity in the next century: Europe under Germany's leadership, Asia led by Japan, and America, which would be divided into two states, one in the north and another in the south.

He also said that the Second and Third World will be divided into three groups: The first will attach itself to the three poles because of geographical necessity, either by choice or by force. The second will enter into

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economic unions such as that of the Arabs and Iran, and the third will decline and be of no importance.

What is noticeable is that Dr. Wamid Nazmi, an Iraqi attendee, was among the most optimistic about the possibility of an Arab-Iranian alliance, which could even be extended to include Turkey and Ethiopia.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 8 Sep

NC1309105095

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 8 September edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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1. Organizations Denounce Brotherhood Members' Referral to Military Court
2. Brotherhood Defense Protests Referrals to Military Court
3. Writer Criticizes Government's Handling of POW Issue
4. Arab Doctors Federation Official Defends Brotherhood
5. Labor Party Member Attacks Government Policy on Brotherhood, Elections
6. Labor Party Member Cited on Beijing Conference, Birth Control
7. Pakistani, Indian Envoys Discuss Kashmir Conflict
8. Party Leaders, Others, Protest Brotherhood Referrals to Military Court

ORGANIZATIONS DENOUNCE BROTHERHOOD MEMBERS' REFERRAL TO MILITARY COURT

An unattributed 420-word report on pages 1 and 8 says the Doctors Union Council "has expressed its strong astonishment" at the referral of leading union members to the military court. It adds that the council has appealed to the president to revoke the decision so that the trial might be conducted by an ordinary magistrate.

It says the National Progressive Unionist Grouping has issued a statement noting that despite its "radical" dispute with the Muslim Brotherhood the party declares its "principled stance" rejecting the referral of civilians charged in political cases to military courts.

The report also says that the Trade Unions Coordination Committee issued a statement describing civilian defendants' referral to the military court as a breach of the law and an aggression against citizens' rights.

BROTHERHOOD DEFENSE PROTESTS REFERRALS TO MILITARY COURT

An approximately 1,300-word unattributed report on page 2 says the defense committee for the Brotherhood has requested the president of the Administrative Judiciary Court to fix a date for a court session. The defense wants the session to look into a "protest lodged against the president of the Republic and the defense and justice ministers" for the referral of 47 suspects involved in the Brotherhood case to military courts.

WRITER CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF POW ISSUE

In a 750-word article on page 2, Dr. 'Ala' al-Aswani criticizes the Egyptian Government's handling of the killing by Israeli forces of Egyptian war prisoners. He says: "We are saddened by the status of great Egypt. More saddening is President Husni Mubarak's repeated statements that he does not want to create problems between Egypt and Israel."

After citing examples to show the government's apathy to its citizens, he says there is one reason for such incidents—Egypt is not governed democratically. Democracy, he notes, is not achieved by songs and articles; democracy means the people should elect their rulers. He concludes by asking the president: "Why all this eagerness for good ties with Israel?"

ARAB DOCTORS FEDERATION OFFICIAL DEFENDS BROTHERHOOD

Dr. 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-al-Futuh, assistant secretary general of the Arab Doctors Federation, writes a 760-word article on the same page, entitled: "The Brothers Referral to Military Courts Is a Crime Against the Citizen."

He says the apparent contentious point in the regime's charges against the Brotherhood is that Brotherhood members see themselves as advocating God's cause by peaceful and constitutional means and that their existence is "100 percent legal," while the "Egyptian regime" thinks the Brotherhood is illegal. This, he remarks, does not slight the recognition by the regime or by some of its nationalist figures that the Brotherhood has "an honorable nationalist history," that it is a peaceful group that respects the Constitution and the law, and that it is "one of the strongest popular groupings" in Egypt.

Addressing "those of you who claim to be civilized and refined," he asks: Are legal disputes settled by muscle-flexing and the imprisonment of honest citizens and referral to military courts as if they were the remnants

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of hostile armies or are they settled before ordinary courts?"

He adds: "Excluding the Brotherhood from the Egyptian arena is high treason against Egypt for the following reasons: 1. It is an obvious injustice that we do not accept against any of the people's organizations that respect the Constitution; 2. The Arab region is being reorganized in the interest of world Zionism and the Brotherhood forms the vanguard of the Egyptian people and a nationalist trend to confront this plot; 3. The absence or exclusion of the Brotherhood from the Egyptian arena is an implicit call for and support to the ideas of infidelity and violence in society; and 4. Egypt has suffered and we the people, not the rulers, have paid dearly for the confrontation of the Brotherhood because of God's anger at us."

LABOR PARTY MEMBER ATTACKS GOVERNMENT POLICY ON BROTHERHOOD, ELECTIONS

AL-SHA'B's page 5 features an approximately 2,600-word article by Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn in which he attacks the government policy on the press, elections, and Brotherhood.

He begins by saying: "Our nation is now at the center of a heated, crucial confrontation with government members. The forces of democracy are besieging them from all sides to compel them to submit to the people's will." He adds: "We are at the center of a crucial confrontation. We will be patient and will struggle until God decides. This is the final attempt by those who are eager for change and reform through organized and peaceful means. This attempt will either succeed and genuine stability will come about or it will fail and then the flood will come. Government members: Then you will flee and God will not protect you."

He says the government is now focusing its campaign on the Islamic trend and on businessmen and capital owners. This, he adds, shows that the government knows these factions can "embarrass" it.

Turning to the referral of Brotherhood members to the military court, he says there is no explanation for their arrest except that they are "the heroes" who are expected to contest the next election campaign. He adds: "We clarified this from day one. We asked all parties to unite and protest this serious indication of the expected forgery in the forthcoming elections." He remarks that the confusion has reached a point where the military judiciary is being used to influence elections. He goes on: "The government is embroiled in a major crime because of its insistence on defeating its opponents in the general elections by force and terrorism. This is a major crime because it jeopardizes the roots of the political system and heralds harmful sedition."

He says: "The crime of referring civilians to military courts cannot pass unnoticed. It is not being committed against the Brotherhood or the Islamists alone; it is a bad omen for everyone."

LABOR PARTY MEMBER CITED ON BEIJING CONFERENCE, BIRTH CONTROL

Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn writes another 600-word article on the same page on the Beijing document and birth control.

He says al-Azhar and the Coptic Church's joint stance on the Beijing women's conference is the hoped-for embodiment of the concept of national unity. He adds: "We want it to be the unity of the religious people against the atheists and violators of all religions and morals."

The author appeals to al-Azhar scholars and Muslim clergy to reconsider the birth control issue. Addressing them, he says: "Everything you attacked in the document that destroys the family and virtues is linked with an international scheme to decrease the population of colored nations led by the Islamic nations."

PAKISTANI, INDIAN ENVOYS DISCUSS KASHMIR CONFLICT

Page 9 runs two 1,200-word interviews with the Pakistani ambassador and the Indian charge d'affaires by unidentified correspondents. They discuss the status of Jamu-and-Kashmir.

The Pakistani ambassador says the people in Jamu-and-Kashmir are now staging an uprising for self-determination and that this uprising will continue until India submits to their "just demands." He adds that another war is likely if the situation remains unchanged. He says: "We will not start this war but fear India might."

The Indian charge d'affaires says Kashmir is not an Islamic issue, but is an internal one, concerning part of India's territory. He adds: "Pakistan provokes us and we are silent. We have offered negotiations but they have refused."

PARTY LEADERS, OTHERS PROTEST BROTHERHOOD REFERRALS TO MILITARY COURT

Page 12 contains a 140-word petition signed by over 120 people, including the Labor Party leader, other opposition party members, the Arab Doctors Federation and Egyptian Human Rights Organization officials,

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journalists, and others. They all "denounce" the referral of Brotherhood members to the military court and appeal to the president of the Republic to revoke the measure "immediately."

Palestinian Affairs

Abu-Marzuq Replaced as Head of Hamas Bureau

TA1509083995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The leadership of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] met overseas and decided to appoint Khalid Mash'al as head of the organization's political bureau in the place of Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, who was arrested in the United States.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem points out that AL-ISTIQLAL, Islamic Jihad's mouthpiece in Gaza, reports that the intention of the new appointment is to deflect Abu-Marzuq's importance in the eyes of the Americans. Three Hamas leaders vied for the position, but ultimately it was decided to appoint Mash'al, a resident of the West Bank.

'Arafat Meets With U.S. Consul-General

JN1409152395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Sep 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has said that Hebron is still a main issue in the Palestinian-Israeli talks. After meeting with U.S. Consul-General Edward Abington at the Presidential Office in Gaza today, President 'Arafat said that his next meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres depends on progress in the ongoing negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations in Elat. Asked about the possibility of signing an agreement on 21 September, President 'Arafat said: No one knows.

The president and Abington discussed recent developments in the peace process and obstacles to reaching a final agreement on the second stage of the Declaration of Principles and means to overcome them.

President 'Arafat also received a delegation of the European Troika representatives at the Presidential Office in Gaza today. The delegation handed President 'Arafat the statement issued by the European Union on the Libyan decision to expel thousands of Palestinians from Libya. In the statement, the European Union expresses serious concern over the Libyan decision. The statement adds: Taking humanitarian considerations into account, the European Union is asking the Libyan Government to rescind this decision which has a negative impact on many people.

President 'Arafat is expected to meet with 'Abd-al-Majid Shuman, chairman of the Arab Bank Board of Directors, at the Presidential Office today. Shuman, who will arrive in Gaza in a short while, will be accompanied by a number of Palestinian investors and economists, who are expected to discuss the possibility of participation in the building of the infrastructure and the economy.

In another development, Marwan Kanafani, President 'Arafat's adviser and official spokesman, said that the Palestinian side wants to reach an agreement and set a date for signing it. He added: We want to sign this agreement in the United States in appreciation of its efforts, in its capacity as a cosponsor of the peace process.

Kanafani noted some encouraging reports today about slight progress in the Elat talks. Kanafani warned against great optimism. He said that there can be no agreement without an agreement on Hebron, hoping that this issue will be finalized in the coming days.

Al-Za'nun Urges U.S. To Act as 'Arbiter'

MM1409131795 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 13 Sep 95 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Al-Za'nun: Palestine National Council Prepared To Amend Charter If Israel Abides by Oslo Agreement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — Salim al-Za'nun, acting speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has urged the United States to play the role of an arbiter in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and continue sponsoring them. In a seminar organized yesterday in Washington by the National Association of American Arabs, he said that the United States should not leave the negotiators alone until the last minute but instead should follow the negotiations and always intervene to put pressure on either side to implement the Oslo agreement. He also said that he will discuss with Robert Dole, leader of the Republican majority in the Senate, the issue of Jerusalem, so that it remains outside the corridors of U.S. internal policy and Israeli propaganda.

It must be mentioned that Dole announced to the conference of the Zionist lobby AIPAC [American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee] last April that he would put forward a proposal to move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Al-Za'nun, currently in the United States on a private visit for medical treatment, said that Jerusalem is not under Israeli sovereignty, and that, according to the partitioning resolution supported by the United States

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in 1947, it has an "international status." He added that Jerusalem is to be discussed in the final phase between the Palestinians and Israel.

Al-Za'nun pointed to the fact that the PNC is prepared to amend the part of the Palestine national charter calling for the removal of Israel and liberation of all Palestine, if changes are made as regards Israeli forces on the West Bank as per the Oslo agreement. He also said that, if Israel does not do that [withdraw], especially from the city of Hebron, "it would be better for 'Arafat and Rabin if the PNC does not convene, as it would oppose the peace agreement."

Al-Za'nun said he believes that the self-rule authority "is striving to rebuild the Gaza Strip, following the destruction of civilization on the West Bank and Gaza during 29 years of Israeli occupation." Al-Za'nun, who was allowed by Israel to return to Gaza, criticized the United States for its double standards in dealing with international resolutions, and stressed that it did not commit itself to implementing Security Council Resolution 242 calling for Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories occupied in 1967.

He said that "Israel is delaying the implementation of the Oslo agreement and Hebron remains under its control although it should be like Nabulus. Israel is also creating difficulties and problems for the self-rule Authority by imposing collective punishments and closing the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, which weakens the Palestinian Authority and strengthens the opposition against it." He added that Israel has not withdrawn from 30 percent of Gaza. He expressed his belief that help for Yasir 'Arafat, head of the self- rule Authority, "would come through extending of Palestinian authority in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, freeing 6,000 Palestinian detainees, holding elections away from the specter of occupation and under acceptable international supervision, and allowing PNC members to return to their homeland as citizens instead of visitors." Al- Za'nun said he believes that these conditions would promote an agreement on amending the Palestine national charter.

Al-Za'nun called for U.S. intervention to solve the problem of Hebron, where Israel wants 400 Israeli settlers to remain under the protection of 2,000 Israeli soldiers. Al-Za'nun stressed that the Israeli Likud coalition is sabotaging the peace process.

'Arafat Receives Phone Call From Egypt's al-Baz

NC1409204395 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat this evening received a telephone call from Dr. Usamah al-Baz, foreign ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

Al-Baz briefed President 'Arafat on Egypt's efforts to remove obstacles facing the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

'Arafat Orders More Offices Moved to Hebron

TA1509094095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinians continue to move offices to Hebron's old city at Yasir 'Arafat's orders. Now they have relocated the Shari'a court and the open university's department for higher learning. Another four institutions announced that they would open branches in Hebron's casbah. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the intention of the Palestinians is to establish facts on the ground and underscore the problem of Hebron in anticipation of the completion of the negotiations with Israel.

[In a related report carried by Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 15 September, Ben-Menahem quotes Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah as saying: "We expect the fate of Hebron to be identical to that of all other cities in the West Bank and to see the Israeli army redeployment apply to it, too, as 'Arafat has promised us. 'Arafat promised a delegation of Hebron notables to submit to them any Israeli proposal and to hear out the opinion of the city's residents before he agrees to it." The report adds: "Nevertheless, sources in Hebron say that 'Arafat has started getting the Hebron notables used to the idea that an international force of observers will be stationed in the city and that the withdrawal from Hebron will be, in the best of cases, only partial."]

Habash Notes Arab 'Rift' Caused by Oslo Accord

LD1409093995 Tehran IRNA in English 0932 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, Sept. 14, IRNA — General Secretary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] George Habash, here on Wednesday [13 September] said that the Oslo accord has created a big rift in the Arab world.

Speaking to IRNA here, he said that the accord has opened large doors to the Arab world for the recognition of Israel.

Habash also added that the Oslo accord has been the main cause of establishing relations between certain Arab states and the Zionist regime.

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The general secretary termed the outcome of the accord as massacre of Palestinians, more Jewish settlements and surrendering more parts of Palestine to the Zionists.

Habash urged Palestinians to resist the Zionist regime and fight against it until Palestine is liberated and rights of Palestinian are restored.

Calls for 'Arafat's 'Removal'

MM1409151395 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Sep 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Habash: Oslo Agreement Perpetuating Israeli Occupation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, AL-HAYAH — Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has called for the "removal" of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat from the PLO leadership in preparation for the rebuilding of the PLO and its institutions on "sound democratic" foundations.

On the second anniversary of the signing of the Oslo agreement between Israel and the PLO, Habash said that yesterday represented "a dark page in our people's history, since a Palestinian leadership has for the first time embarked — submissively — on recognizing Israel's right to exist on Palestinian territory."

He added that the "humiliating agreement represents a qualitative infiltration by the Zionist entity...and a state of almost total collapse for the Palestinian side that signed it and opened the door to the capitulating Arab regimes to recognize the enemy and to normalize relations with him."

Habash pointed out that what has happened on the ground since the agreement was signed "is further settlement building, repression, and terrorism, in addition to continued Zionist military occupation under the pretext of redeployment. It has given Israel full freedom to make moves on the various axes and levels and to turn the cities and villages of the West Bank and the [Gaza] Strip into cantons and islands isolated from one another."

He added that the agreement has led to "further Judaization and domination of Jerusalem, confiscation of land, fragmentation of the Palestinian people's unity and Palestinian territory, disregard for the rights of 4 million Palestinians, continued Zionist repression and terrorism, strikes at international legitimacy, and fatal blows to the pan-Arab plan."

The secretary general of the PFLP, which froze its membership of the PLO Executive Committee after the agreement was signed, urged "our combatant people to unite their ranks and organize their efforts through a broad national front to strip 'Arafat and the Oslo group of legitimacy in order to remove and replace this leadership, improve conditions in the PLO, and rebuild its institutions on sound democratic foundations so that our people can continue their struggle to defeat the surrender agreement and recover our rights in full."

Tribunal's Operations, Legal Basis Reviewed

TA1409130795 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 14 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Yosi Torpstein]

[FBIS Translated Text] The trial of Yusuf and Shahir Ra'i, who murdered two Israelis in Wadi al-Qilt, was held on Monday [11 September] and was very brief. Late at night, they were led into a room at the regional military headquarters, where three military officers were sitting in their capacity as state security tribunal judges. One of them was also an attorney. The clauses of the charges against them were read out: They had harmed Palestinian Authority [PA] security, incited people against the PA, and staged public disturbances. The charges did not specify any details of the crimes. Within a short time, each man was sentenced to seven years in prison.

The Israeli media announced that very same day that a month earlier, the Shin Bet uncovered the squad that had carried out the Wadi al-Qilt killings.

Mahmud Bishtawi, the Jericho state security tribunal prosecutor, said the order to prosecute the two was received about a week prior to the trial. The two men had a tribunal-appointed defense counsel, attorney Mahmud Qara'in, who is not a member of the Palestinian security forces, but is employed by them. The defendants had four days to prepare their defense with the assistance of the appointed counsel.

Similar proceedings — often even more summary — were applied in the cases of other defendants, who were tried in the state security tribunal in Gaza and Jericho. According to a list compiled by Peace Watch, 45 defendants have been tried by the court since its establishment in February 1995. Of these, 28 were from Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad, 10 from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and seven men who were not affiliated with any particular organization and who stood trial for offenses such as the sale of rotten food and illegal gun sales.

According to Bishtawi, the trial was conducted on the basis of military legislation enacted by the PLO in 1979 governing legal procedures, penal laws, and

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imprisonment, and on the basis of Jordanian law. He maintained that the PLO had established such a court as long ago as 1979, and that it was reintroduced this year.

On 7 February, Yasir 'Arafat issued an order establishing a state security tribunal, mainly in the wake of Israeli and U.S. pressure to stem terror. The order bases the tribunal's establishment on regulation No. 555 issued by the Egyptian military governor of the Gaza Strip in 1957 and on the Palestinian constitution enacted in Gaza in 1962 following the appointment by Egypt of a Palestinian legislative council in 1958.

The constitution, proudly quoted by the Palestinian legal establishment with respect to other fields, such as arrest and interrogation, states: "Military tribunals will be established on the governor general's orders to hear cases of violations of internal and foreign security and of military forces' security. These tribunals' rulings will be approbated by the governor general."

Under the order and its references, the state security tribunal divested the ordinary courts of the power to hear cases concerning security violations. In addition, the tribunal seems to have no appellate level, and only executive branch chief 'Arafat can sanction or repeal its verdict.

In practice, the tribunal apparently deals also with offenses that are not necessarily security-related, and it is not obliged to operate in accordance with methodic and detailed legal proceedings. The PA has yet to enact security legislation governing legal proceedings. As a result, the PA enjoys freedom of action as regards the timing, nature, and course of these trials in blatant violation of basic human rights as known in the West.

Besides the state security tribunal, the PA also operates military courts that deal exclusively with offenses committed by PA military personnel. These courts have an appellate authority, as do the civilian courts in the territories.

The summary trials in the state security tribunal are designed to allow the PA to avoid extraditing Palestinian terrorists to Israel by preempting the Israeli requests, as the PA has done several times recently. Yet, apparently, this was not the only reason for the establishment of the tribunal. Senior Israeli political elements say Israelis knew the Palestinians would not extradite terrorists even as the negotiations on the Gaza-Jericho accord were being conducted. The asymmetrical enforcement of the extradition clause on the Palestinians is designed to encourage them at least to try and sentence the terrorists to terms of imprisonment.

Senior Palestinian elements say that the main impetus for the tribunal's establishment was the PA's need to deal quickly and forcefully with violent opposition members and to convey a clear message that it will not tolerate attempts to undermine its authority or stage violent acts against the agreement with Israel. The state security tribunal is just such a message, in the PA's view.

Official Denies PA Decided Against Extradition

TA1409145795 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Sep 95 p A2

[Report by Ori Nir]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Furayh Abu-Middayn, the Palestinian Authority's [PA] official in charge of the justice portfolio, yesterday flatly denied allegations that the PA had decided not to extradite additional suspects to Israel. He said he would abide by his promise to his Israeli counterpart, Justice Minister David Liba'i, to examine the seven extradition requests Liba'i handed over to him in their meeting a week ago, and if the men meet the criteria set in the Cairo agreement they would be extradited to Israel.

Abu-Middayn said the PA had not complied with the Israeli requests to date because they not were not filed in accordance with the agreement or submitted to the joint legal committee which meets from time to time at the Erez checkpoint. [passage omitted]

Abu-Middayn said yesterday that if Israel wants the Palestinians to honor the agreements they signed with it, Israel must do likewise. He enumerated a series of cases which, according to him, constitute a gross violation of the agreement on the part of Israel, such as the kidnapping of four Palestinians from Gaza in order to bring them to trial in Israel and sentence them to life imprisonment, or the habit of the Shin Bet to issue Israeli identity papers to collaborators from Gaza to make them immune from prosecution by the legal authorities in Gaza (the Cairo agreement stipulates that the Palestinians have no judicial authority over Israeli citizens).

According to Abu-Middayn, the position of Israeli politicians on the extradition of Palestinian suspects is irrational. The Palestinians did not violate the agreement, he said, and the public statements of the Israeli leadership are designed to make an impression on Israeli public opinion.

"You Israelis push us into a corner because you only worry about your public opinion. We have to see to our public opinion, too," he said.

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Asked whether the PA had decided not to extradite additional suspects to Israel, as announced by Muhammad Dahlan, head of the Preventive Security Service in the Gaza Strip, Abu-Middayn replied: "Definitely not. There is no such decision. But I must say that we also have the right to put people on trial here. We have sentenced a few persons to 20 years in prison. In any case, we are prepared to hand over whoever meets the terms (of the extradition agreement). [passage omitted]

Kanafani Defends Verdict Against Palestinians

JN1409171795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Marwan Kanafani, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser and official spokesman, has denied rumors spread by anti-peace quarters in Israel that the verdicts issued against Palestinians at the State Security Court were simply to avoid handing over those suspects to Israel.

Kanafani said that one cannot avoid such matters by keeping the suspect in prison for 12 years. Kanafani added that the verdicts were issued after the suspects were accused of being involved in certain acts. As an example, Kanafani referred to the two suspects in the Wadi al-Qilt incident who stood trial in Jericho and were given prison terms of up to 12 years.

Kanafani added that the Palestinian State Security Court has tried and issued verdicts against many suspects who were involved in or who planned to carry out acts of violence against Palestinians and Israelis alike, in implementation of the National Authority's commitment to the provisions of the Declaration of Principles which lays the foundation for the extradition of suspects.

Kanafani said he hoped the Israeli Government would practice this measure with the same clarity and firmness against extremist settlers. Kanafani said that the Palestinian National Authority is determined to live up to its commitments toward achieving peace and security for all with the same determination and firmness demanded by the Israeli Government which, in its turn, should fully and faithfully implement the provisions of the peace agreement, including redeployment in Hebron.

Hamas Spokesman on Ties With PA, Other Issues

JN1309162395 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 12-18 Sep 95 p 5

[Interview with official Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah by 'Atif al-Julani; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [al-Julani] Media reports spoke about the possibility of resuming dialogue between you and the Palestinian Authority [PA] in the next few days. How true is this?

[Ghawshah] Hamas was never against objective dialogue that spares the Palestinian people the woes of confrontation and civil wars. We are aware of the seriousness of the situation, and the Zionist pressures to foment inter-Palestinian fighting. Therefore, we agreed to Dr. Hasan al-Turabi's mediation to hold a meeting between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the PA. However, the PA always closed the doors of dialogue by responding to the Zionist pressures and its suppression of strugglers. This suppression reached its climax with the arrest of the movement leaders in the Gaza Strip, and the subsequent harm inflicted on them. Therefore, the movement decided to suspend the proposed dialogue with the PA and informed Dr. al-Turabi of its position. It is the PA which is responsible for obstructing the dialogue and placing obstacles. If they are sincere and serious in conducting a comprehensive and objective dialogue that serves the Palestinian interests, then they have to prove their good intentions by creating an atmosphere that eliminates all obstacles impeding such a dialogue. How can there be a successful dialogue while the movement leaders are in the PA's prisons?

[Al-Julani] How true are rumors that the movement will announce the formation of a political party to participate in the elections and in the authority?

[Ghawshah] Hamas is a big movement and various opinions are proposed. The idea of a political party was proposed earlier and the movement studied it from all angles and approved the principle of forming a political party. Specialized bodies are pursuing arrangements in this regard in order to choose an appropriate time to announce the formation of this party. However, rumors that the party will be formed to participate in the authority or in the self- rule elections are not true at all, because the movement has decided not to participate in elections for the self-rule council.

[Al-Julani] Following the Jerusalem operation, the head of the PA gave his security bodies orders described as "strict" to arrest "Engineer" Yahya 'Ayyash. Do you believe that Yahya 'Ayyash is still in the Gaza Strip as the Israeli authorities say?

[Ghawshah] Truly, I don't know 'Ayyash's whereabouts. Is he in Gaza, in the West Bank, in the Palestinian areas occupied in 1948, or abroad? We do not know.

[Al-Julani] But what is your comment on the orders of the head of the authority to arrest 'Ayyash?

[Ghawshah] Engineer Yahya 'Ayyash enjoys the respect of the Palestinian people and the Arab and Islamic

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nation. He is making sacrifices for the sake of God and is defying Zionist arrogance. We can say that he succeeded in this regard. He has also proved to the world that technical competence and security expertise are not confined to the Zionists, and that the Palestinians, Arabs, and Muslims can compete with them in this regard. 'Ayyash has turned into a symbol and a legend. Today we hear the so-called authority leaders, whose agentry to Zionist occupation has been confirmed, demanding a quick end to this legend. Persistent efforts are being made to arrest 'Ayyash. The authority is preparing to present his head to the Zionist authorities, if he is captured, may God forbid, as Salome, the dancer, presented the head of John the Baptist to the Jews.

Our information says the PA and the occupation authorities are making great efforts to arrest 'Ayyash. Embarrassed by a Likud question on the relationship with the PA, Peres said before the Security and Foreign Affairs Committee a few days ago that the PA promised to bring him Yahya 'Ayyash's head.

We warn the PA that the arrest or liquidation of Yahya 'Ayyash will turn everything upside down and will arouse the anger of not only Hamas, but of all the Palestinian people. 'Ayyash no longer belongs to Hamas or to the Palestinian people alone; he belongs to the Arab and Islamic nation. Therefore, we say to those in the PA: Think well because if you do this dirty work, you will pay a dear price in return. We advise you to take your time to reconsider things and stop chasing 'Ayyash. Do not let history record that you have committed such a horrible and unforgivable mistake.

[Al-Julani] Some sides believe that Yahya 'Ayyash has appeared in the wrong time, and that had he appeared in another time, he would have been immortalized as a hero for the Palestinian people, and the Arab and Islamic nations. What is your comment on this?

[Ghawshah] Yahya 'Ayyash is a Muslim, and when he works and makes sacrifices, he only seeks reward from Almighty God. Actually, Yahya 'Ayyash, who has come during the Madrid, Oslo, and Cairo era, and during the Palestinian and Arab capitulation, was not immortalized by the news media like any other historic leaders of any other nation. However, I am certain that history records the true deeds of men, and 'Ayyash is no longer a person, but a phenomenon that will not end with his disappearance. The proof is that the mujahidin in Palestine now call themselves the "Yahya 'Ayyash students." We are sure that 'Ayyash's students will increase and disturb the sleep of Rabin and the Zionists who usurped a land which is not theirs.

[Al-Julani] Following the last Jerusalem operation, Rabin said that the Hamas Movement seeks to make his government lose in the elections, and consequently to foil the peace process. So, does the Hamas Movement have such a plan?

[Ghawshah] The objective of the Hamas Movement's jihad and resistance is to topple the occupation, whether this occupation is represented by the Labor or the Likud, Rabin or Netanyahu. The proof is that Hamas fought against the Zionists during the Shamir era, and before Rabin assumed power. There were Hamas heroes at that time, such as Yasir al-Namruti, 'Imad 'Aql, and others. We consider the Likud and Labor parties two faces of the same coin. At the same time, we will not cry or be sad if the Labor Party loses in the next elections. We will not be sad if the Oslo agreement declares its bankruptcy, something which we expect. There have been many signs on its failure despite the many vitamins the United States, the Western states, and some Arab regimes give to it. Our great joy will be when the Zionist occupation of Palestine ends and when the Palestinian people return to their land.

[Al-Julani] The PA, some Israeli political circles, and some columnists hinted at the existence of coordination or cooperation between Hamas and the Zionist right wing with the objective of toppling the Rabin government in the coming elections. What is your reply to this?

[Ghawshah] These are cheap and ridiculous ideas. The PA and the Rabin government resort to such ideas to cover the Hamas Movement's achievements which shake the foundations of the Zionist entity. We noticed that the PA always says that it has evidence of coordination between Hamas and the Zionist right wing. However, it has never proved this. The only thing the PA claims is that it found 150 Israeli identity cards, and it was said that they have become 1,500, in the possession of the Hamas members. Even if such identity cards were found, does logic not say that they are used by the Palestinian mujahidin to enter into the state of the Zionist entity in order to attack the occupation targets? This method was used by all the Palestinian movements, including Fatah. It is proof of the jihad approach, vot vice versa, as the PA claims.

[Al-Julani] The U.S. authorities still hold Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the Hamas Movement Political Bureau. Do you expect that the U.S. authorities would extradite him to the Zionist entity?

[Ghawshah] We do not rule out that the U.S. authorities would extradite Abu-Marzuq to the Zionist entity, which is a very serious matter. The results of such action are unpredictable. I am not saying that the Hamas Movement is making threats, for the movement had earlier said that it does not threaten the United States or the U.S. interests. However, we say that the results of

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such action would be miscalculated. This is because Dr. Abu-Marzuq is a Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic figure who is respected, not only by the Palestinian people, but also by the Arab and Islamic peoples. How can these people express their anger over the extradition of Abu-Marzuq to the Zionist entity? This is what we warn of. We say that it is not in the interest of the United States and the American people to be involved in an open conflict with the Arab and Islamic nations and with the Palestinian people. We warn the United States of this because there are precedents, such as what happened during France's occupation of Algeria in the fifties when it arrested the five Algerian leaders, including Ahmed Ben Bella, Hocine Ait-Ahmed, Mohamed Kheider, and how the Arab and Islamic nations moved at the time as a result of this action.

[Al-Julani] Some say that the Hamas movement is swimming against the current and moving against the regional political orientations, which are supported by Western powers, especially the United States. What is your comment?

[Ghawshah] If it is considered swimming against the current for any historic movement to work to revive its nation's strength and glory and to be in control of matters, then this will mean that the goals of all historic movements that want to restore their nations' respect are doubtful and wrong. We will be honored to be said of someday that we have swum against the current. We will be honored more if it is said that we have managed to change the current and make it move in the direction leading to prosperity, life, and the nation's progress.

Can anyone claim that the Madrid conference or the Oslo, Cairo, Wadi al-'Arabah, and Camp David agreements are the original and true current? No, they are an artificial river that must dry and disappear someday. Almighty God says: "For the scum disappears like froth cast out; while that which is for the good of mankind remains on the earth." [Koranic verse]

If we want to use the current standards, we will find that there is some truth to what is said. Hamas is the only Islamic movement defying the Zionist-U.S. onslaught of normalization and reconciliation under the current imbalance of powers. This is an honor for Hamas. We are optimistic. We do not live for the present only. We live for the future. We believe that the current generation, among which there are hundreds of people lining up to prove their love for their religion and homeland by sacrificing their lives, deserves victory. That might take years or decades to achieve. That is no problem. We believe that the program of resistance and jihad pursued by Hamas will win. Hamas is not the first and will not be the last to pursue such a program. We are part of the Muslim nation and are proud of that. We believe that this nation will join our program.

[Al-Julani] A few days ago, another Palestinian fell martyr under interrogation in the PA prisons. That did not draw any reactions among the PA circles. On the other hand, the martyrdom of 'Abd-al-Samad Huzayrat in an Israeli prison stirred a clamor among the Israeli government and legal circles. How do you view that?

[Ghawshah] To begin with, I do not want to give the Zionists a certificate of humanity and democracy. Despite the denunciations of the martyrdom of Huzayrat under interrogation, the government wanted interrogators be given more powers to use harsher means of torture to interrogate detainees.

Regarding the PA, regrettably, the Palestinian individual is obviously a cheap commodity whose rights are violated and who is tortured in prisons and killed without any response. We blame broad sectors of the Palestinian people interested in freedom and human rights for their silence. Why do they not speak out? We tell them that anyone could be the next. The issue is not an issue of Islamists only, although they are paying a heavy toll at the hands of the PA persecutors. Rather, the entire Palestinian people will be affected. The Palestinian people have begun to feel that, whether in the Gaza Strip or the West Bank.

According to legal institutions, the number of detainees who entered the PA prisons has so far amounted to about 1,000, and may get higher. After each crime, we hear the PA saying that an investigation committee will be set up. However, files are then kept in drawers, like all previous cases, such as the Filastin Mosque massacre in Gaza. [passage omitted]

Official on Fatah Extraordinary Meeting

JN1409163095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1213 GMT 14 Sep 95

[Telephone interview with Marwan al-Barghuthi, secretary of the Fatah Movement Higher Committee, by unidentified correspondent; place not given; from the "Today's Events" program—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Marwan al- Barghuthi.

[Al-Barguthi] Hello.

[Correspondent] Good evening, Marwan.

[Al-Barguthi] Good evening.

[Correspondent] Marwan: You held a meeting today to discuss the situation in Hebron. Would you like to brief us on what was discussed during this meeting?

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[Al-Barguthi] A special and extraordinary meeting of the Fatah Movement Higher Committee [FMHC] was held in Hebron today. The Fatah Movement took the initiative and called for a popular demonstration in Hebron this morning to express solidarity in view of the escalating settler activities and attacks on our people's schools, particularly the Qurtubah school for girls, as well as to follow up on these successive events and effect popular confrontation of this Israeli onslaught which is launched by the Israeli Government and by the settler herds in Hebron.

In this meeting, which has lasted from this morning until now, the attendees have discussed many issues, most important of which is redeployment in Hebron. The FMHC made a decision which firmly and clearly calls on the National Authority and the Palestinian negotiating delegation not to sign any agreement on redeployment if it excludes Hebron.

[Correspondent] Which is a right for Palestinians...

[Al-Barguthi, interrupting] Yes because this is stipulated in the Oslo agreement and in its second part. In other words, redeployment should take place in all populated areas without any exception. This basis and provision are mentioned in the Oslo agreement.

Hence, the Israeli blackmail, which uses time as a weapon, should not be used against us. This is because there is a joint Israeli- Palestinian interest in achieving peace, stability, and security for all.

[Correspondent] Yes. As Fatah Movement leaders, what will your position be if this fierce onslaught by the extremist settlers in Hebron continues?

[Al-Barghuthi] We highly appreciate the popular unity in the Hebron governorate in general among various factions, key figures, institutions, and masses of our people who are holding fast and bravely and vigorously confronting the settler attacks.

We call on the Rabin government to adopt decisive and clear measures to protect Palestinian security. We also tell our Palestinian negotiators that there is need to work out security guarantees for the Palestinian people and not only for the Israeli side, because the Palestinians are more threatened than the Israelis, particularly these days.

[Correspondent] Do you believe that this settler onslaught against Hebron, which naturally is supported officially by the Israeli Government, aims to undermine or obstruct the negotiations or to gain time?

[Al-Barghuthi] Certainly. The settlers and some Israeli security circles are trying to obstruct an agreement on redeployment. Regrettably, the Israeli delegation negotiating in Elat is a security delegation from the Israeli Army which has nothing to do with the political leadership. This delegation is trying to impose restrictions and terms unacceptable to the Palestinian side.

The FMHC made a host of decisions in today's meeting concerning popular activities. A Palestinian popular conference will be held in the next few days. Various political forces, key figures, and institutions throughout the homeland will be invited to this conference in order to express our confrontation of the settler onslaught and our adherence to redeployment in Hebron.

This conference will be accompanied by a host of other activities and meetings.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Mr. Marwan al-Barghuthi, secretary of the FMHC.

[Al-Barghuthi] Thank you.

Commentary: 'Systematic Sabotage' of Peace Process

JN1509100995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1914 GMT 14 Sep 95

[Commentary by the political editor of the PALESTINIAN NEWS AGENCY, WAFA: "Hebron: Yardstick and Evidence of Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] How could we envisage peace as young girls from Cordoba School were attacked and injured while under siege by the Israeli army — which gave the settlers a free hand to physically harm and terrorize them? How can we trust the Israeli prime minister, foreign minister, and other government figures involved in the peace process when they brandish guns and when their settlers tamper with the destiny of Palestinians, who are supposedly their partners in peace?

Where is peace? Where is the peace process, which is based on international will? Where is the international community — more to the point, where does the United States of America stand on all these reckless acts of the Israeli settlers, soldiers, and politicians against Hebron's women, girls, and children?

There are some acts that go beyond what is usual, and violate the entire peace process. There is a clear and even systematic sabotage of the peace process. There are increasing doubts with regard to the seriousness of the Labor Party, Israeli Government, prime minister, and foreign minister about their commitment to peace.

The siege imposed on Cordoba School and the acts of violence inside and around it put all the Israeli practices to the test. The blockade and closure of the Gaza Strip is still effective. The situation is getting worse to the

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extent that the closure has become an expression of a laconic, fanatic, stagnant, and rancorous approach that sees nothing in the peace process other than the stupid recourse to mass punishment of the entire Palestinian people.

It could be that the Israeli military's arrogance is the reason behind the acts of aggression, closure, and usurpation of new lands to expand or erect settlements. However, we must admit that the balance of power is in favor of Rabin. This balance has become unfair as Rabin is using his clout, imposing his demands, and changing facts on the ground. Rabin should understand that this balance of power may precipitate a war that he could win, but it will never make peace or lead to peace.

Therefore, Hebron has become a piece of evidence and a measuring standard, and Hebron's Cordoba School has become a flashpoint for all those concerned in the region and the whole world. The question of Hebron is the result of Israeli military oppression aiming to impose false facts on the ground that not even words can sustain. Cordoba School is not an appropriate place for such oppression which has become hostage to the crazy whims of settlers — whims that heed no rights or taboos.

The peace process is facing a test. Parties involved in this process should prove their credibility. However, it is the Israeli party that must prove its credibility in the first place, given that it violates and endangers this process through closures, economic blockades and strangulation, and deference to fanaticism in negotiations. It could be important to note that the military are controlling negotiations on the Israeli front, and that they exhibit inflexibility whenever an acceptable solution is about to be reached.

Therefore, President 'Arafat hesitates to go to Taba. 'Arafat calculates things well, especially in light of this terrorist settlement campaign staged under the protection of Israeli generals. Why should 'Arafat go to Taba as long as there is no use in going there? President 'Arafat is fully aware that he needs strong, substantive proof that would make peace a belief and a reality that would be embraced by Palestinians who are already skeptical of Israeli intentions. There is no doubt that such proof must include lifting the blockade and closure; settling the issue of Hebron; halting the usurpation of lands, the construction of bypass roads, and expansion of settlements; and stopping all other practices. This would help give peace a spark of hope. This is part of the requirements of peace, which should deserve its name and be viable.

Possibility of Iran-Iraq Rapprochement Welcomed

MM1309144595 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 12 Sep 95 p 11

[Editorial: "Possibilities for Iranian-Iraqi Rapprochement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] An official Iraqi delegation headed by Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal, a senior official at the Foreign Ministry, is currently visiting Tehran a few days after Iraqi newspapers demanded the normalization of relations between the two countries and the formation of a strong bilateral alliance to confront U.S. hegemony and the dual containment policy.

It is still premature to wallow in optimism and expect a fast creation of this alliance. It will require a great deal of effort and dialogue for the cracks in Iraq-Iran relations caused since the eight-year war to be repaired and for their traces to disappear. Apparently there is a mutual desire, which is crystallizing on both sides, to achieve this. Its symptoms are active trade, semi-open borders, and the recent Iranian-Turkish-Syrian declaration on the need to safeguard Iraq's territorial integrity and to condemn external interference in its internal affairs, namely U.S. moves to change the regime in Baghdad. The Iraqi media's demand to form a tactical alliance, should a strategic relationship between the two countries prove difficult to build, is reasonable and realistic, takes into account the circumstances of the war and its consequences, and at the same time reflects a correct Iraqi political perception of the rapid developments in the region.

What is noticeable is that the U.S. military deployments in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula are still continuing, with over 20 warships unloading their cargo of tanks, heavy weapons, and military equipment, and the number is still increasing. The joint U.S.- Kuwaiti maneuvers are taking place on Iraq's southern border, now that the other maneuvers with Jordan on its western border are over.

If we accept that these deployments are intended to confront Iraq — lest it start a new invasion of Kuwait, according to the official U.S. and Kuwaiti justifications — what we could add is that Iran too is targeted by them, especially after Russia's announcement of the sale of two additional nuclear reactors to Tehran and the failure of U.S. efforts, through the carrot and the stick, to hamper this deal.

We are aware, through independent military experts' analyses, that Iraq, after having been stripped of its weapons by UN inspection teams, can no longer threaten its neighbors or even think of invading Kuwait and others. What is being repeatedly said by the U.S.

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Administration and its spokesmen in this context is only to justify new deployments and force Kuwait and the other Gulf countries to pay their full cost.

We believe that most of the new moves are aimed at Iran and its growing military force. Just as the United States was able to destroy the advanced [Iraqi] arsenal through the Kuwait invasion trap, it is now trying to destroy the Iranian arsenal and looking for excuses and ways to enable it to do so, in order to take full control of oil sources and supplies in the Gulf.

The U.S. strategy in the region, since the fall of the Soviet Union, is based on using oil as a means of putting pressure on Europe and Japan in the future, especially now that some European tendencies toward independence from the United States have appeared in more than one place. Most prominent among them is the independent European policy in Bosnia and the recent French nuclear tests in the Pacific Ocean.

The Iran-Iraq rapprochement is the only available way to confront this strategy and minimize its threats. It is no secret that the Iraqi Government rejected an indirect U.S. offer to lift the blockade imposed on Iraq on condition that it open its territory to U.S. forces in the event of a decision to attack Iran and destroy its weapons.

The ball is in the Iranians' court, and we hope that the Iranian leadership overlooks the bitter experiences of the war and its effects and looks toward the future. The experience of history does not preclude the possibilities of the future, and past conflicts and contradictions do not necessarily continue in the future. It is essential that this strategic alliance attach special importance to mutual reliance and common interests. Just as there are political and diplomatic strategies leading to escalation and explosion, so there are others leading to pacification and settlement. We believe that the Iraqi side is presently following this course toward Iran, and we hope it receives a fast response from the Iranian leadership.

The new regional order that the United States is trying to impose on the region, and which is based on curbing the Arab and Iranian roles and inflating and expanding the hegemonic Israeli role, requires rapprochement and coordination to confront it, without paying any attention to considerations of strength and weakness and the experiences of the near and distant past.

Syria, with its distinctive alliance relations with Tehran, can contribute to speeding up the desired rapprochement and uniting Arab and Iranian efforts to confront the new U.S.-Israeli regional order, because to create a new regime in Baghdad based on U.S.-Israeli criteria and conditions will pose a threat primarily to Syria and Iran. Are the leaderships of both countries aware of this simple truth?

Arab-Israeli Talks

Meeting Fails To End Conflict Over 'Displaced'

JN1409061495 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14-15 Sep 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Arab Israeli delegations on Wednesday [13 September] failed to make progress on defining which Palestinians "displaced" during the 1967 Middle East war were eligible for repatriation to their homeland, officials said.

After two days of meetings, a technical committee comprising officials from Israel, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Egypt and Jordan could not reach agreement on the issue, the officials said.

The talks reached a deadlock when Israel insisted that "displaced" Palestinians only included those who left the West Bank and the Gaza Strip during the 1967 war and those who were outside the West Bank and Gaza when the war broke out and could not return to their homes.

Badr Hammam, head of the Egyptian delegation, said: "There are still different standpoints, and we are trying to reach a common understanding."

Jordan's chief negotiator Mohammad Shahankari said: "New ideas and proposals were presented by the four parties" which would be discussed at their next meeting in Israel on Nov. 6 and 7.

The Arab negotiators agreed that "displaced" Palestinians should include all those who left the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the 1967 war as well as those who were outside and could not return because of the war, officials said.

"No progress has achieved," Zuhdi Sa'id, chief Palestinian delegate, said. "The Israelis did not respond to our demands..."

Yosef Hadas, head of the Israeli delegation, said: "I told them, we are not magicians. We can't give instant solutions. It is better to have problems now than wrapping up an ambiguous deal that will generate problems later."

"The definition is not the only problem. Even if we agree on that, we still have the serious problem of security and job creation when the displaced return to their homes," he told the Associated Press.

The Amman meeting was the fourth on the "displaced" since March 7, when the foreign ministers of the four

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parties met in Amman but failed to make headway after Israel resisted demands for a commitment to a timetable for the repatriation of the "displaced."

The Egyptian-Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian technical committee was set up by the foreign ministers.

The term "displaced" is used for the 1967 war, while Palestinian "refugees" are considered to be those who left their homes when Israel was proclaimed in 1948.

Israel and the PLO are due to discuss the fate of the "refugees" in 1996.

Further on 'Deadlock'

TA1509094695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The deliberations of the quadrilateral committee dealing with the 1967 Palestinian displaced persons being held in Amman reached a deadlock two days ago. The Egyptian and Palestinian representatives in effect demanded the right of return of all Palestinians who had left their homes before and after the Six-Day War.

Our political correspondent reports that the Egyptian and Palestinian representatives said in the meeting that there was no difference between the 1967 displaced persons and the 1948 refugees, which means that they are demanding that the right of return apply to everybody. Our correspondent points out that on this issue, too, Egypt took a rigid position toward Israel.

A special debate on Israel-Egypt relations held yesterday by the Foreign Ministry directorate ended with the decision to the effect that it was important to uphold Cairo's special status in the political processes in the Middle East and that Israel would be well advised to recognize the special weight Egypt carries in the region. The head of the political research center estimated that relations between the two countries were beginning to calm down following the crisis over the killing of the Egyptian POW's. Nevertheless, it was noted that it would be a good idea to initiate a summit meeting between Presidents Weizman and Mubarak in a bid to restore normal relations.

West Bank Electrical Grid Issue Remains 'Unresolved'

TA1309093995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Energy Minister Gonen Segev has transferred to 'Arafat a document detailing Israel's red lines on the electricity issue. Minister Segev told our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling that the differences of opinion on the issue remain unsolved. The Palestinians demand full control over the Judaea and Samaria electricity grid, while Israel wants to remain in control of the high-voltage electrical lines.

Agriculture Talks End Without Result

TA1409170695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli-Palestinian deliberations on the transfer of agricultural powers will resume next week after concluding without agreement today. Colonel David Bar'el, head of the Civil Administration, told our correspondent Esti Perez that the main dispute is over the Palestinian demand to transfer to them two agricultural farms in Janin and Tulkarm. He also said he believes that an accord on the transfer of postal powers can be signed late next week.

Liba'i Submits 3 Extradition Requests to Quray'

TA1509073895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Israeli] Justice Minister David Liba'i last night met in Elat with Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray']. Liba'i requested the transfer of three Palestinian terrorists to Israel. He asked that the judgments and the sentences be handed down by an Israeli court.

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Algeria

Sifi: Tehran, Khartoum Behind 'Blind Terrorism'

LD1409220495 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Sep 95

[Speech by Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi to local cadres in Tizi Ouzou province; date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate; may God's prayers and peace be upon the most honorable messenger. Ladies and gentlemen, may God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you. To begin with, I would like to express my deep satisfaction with my presence among you today. [passage omitted]

Our people daily face a blind terrorism which cannot be justified politically and cannot be explained by any cultural criteria. It is a terrorism that is rejected by human beings and forbidden by religion.

There are people who kill, slit throats, rape, and put bombs outside citizens' homes in the name and under the cover of the salvation of the people. We have never seen in the history of any nation men who slit the throats of people they claim to save. From what do they want to save them?

Do they want to save the Algerian people from their history, culture, and civilization? Do they want to save it from democracy and technological progress? Do they want to save it from the basic values of its holy Islamic religion — that is, tolerance, brotherhood, and the love of others, of knowledge, and of science? They want to turn ignorance into a shroud for the nation of Jugurtha [Berber leader] while the shadows of the mullahs of Tehran and the charlatan preachers of Khartoum can be seen behind their cowardly daggers. These men have dragged behind them unwilling youths who have lost their way, victims of economic and cultural backwardness and social poverty.

We want to retrieve our sons who have gone astray, and we want to give them their place and chances in a new Algeria, a new Algeria in need of all its sons. We will always recall the message of President Liamine Zeroual addressed to all those who have been deceived, to whom we say: return to your families, return to your homeland, return to your culture; those whom you are following have failed, definitively failed because the people have rejected them and rejected their vile and horrendous acts. [passage omitted]

Political parties were always calling for the return of the electoral process and, in his speech of 31 October 1994, President Liamine Zeroual announced the resumption of that process through presidential elections before the end of 1995. Since that call, some political parties started protesting against the holding of these elections and calling first of all for a national concord and for providing the necessary conditions.

Which concord and which conditions are these?

Ideal and comprehensive conditions do not exist anywhere in any country. Concord can only be that of the people, otherwise it will not exist. There is no other way to get concord apart from consulting the people. The choice has become clear today. This choice is either to leave the people to express their will with all freedom through transparent elections with guarantees of national and foreign observers — this will enable the launching of the electoral process which will encompass all the institutions — or remain in a situation of expectation and decay. This situation not only threatens the credibility of our country, but will also lead to harming the very foundations of this nation represented by its unity and sovereignty.

Ladies and gentlemen; I have already spoken about those who are the enemies of the nation, regardless of the masks they hide behind, and I have mentioned those who engage in politics for the sake of politics, and, without entering into a sterile argument, I should like to draw the attention of the citizens to the maneuvers, machinations, and falsifications of facts that may emanate from some people whose interests and aspirations do not necessarily serve those of the nation.

On several occasions, I have stressed that the government I head is not at the service of any forces, whether hidden or visible. Those who have agreed to assume the difficult and thorny responsibility of running the country during this hard transitional stage are thus serving the nation, without any calculations or quest for power. [passage omitted]

The people here in Tizi Ouzou, as in the whole of Algeria, are the ones who are moving forward. Those who want to go backward will be defeated by the march of the victorious people. God judges people according to their intentions and our intention is sincere.

We want our country to develop in peace, democracy, and pride. We are certain that all the citizens share this wish with us.

As one saying of this region says: May God help all those who love this country sincerely and place it above all interests.

Long live Algeria. Please stand and say with me: Long live Algeria. [audience complies]

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May our heroic martyrs be glorious; may they have eternal life; and may God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

FIS Condemns Bombing Attacks in France

AU1409115895 Paris AFP in English 1134 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bonn, Sept 14 (AFP) — The foreign executive branch of the Algerian fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) Thursday [14 September] strongly condemned the recent terror campaign in France.

In a statement received here by AFP, the organisation, which is banned in Algeria, described the wave of bomb attacks "against innocent civilians" in France over the last few weeks as "barbaric and blind."

"We strongly reiterate that despite France's unconditional support for the military junta in Algeria, our party has no intention of exporting the Algerian conflict to that country," the statement said.

"So who benefits from crime?" it added. "Definitely not the FIS ... which gains nothing from alienating French public opinion and preventing its members fleeing military repression in Algeria from entering France."

A series of terrorist bombings and failed blasts, which started July 25, has left seven dead and more than 100 injured. The Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the most radical of the Moslem extremist groups opposing Algeria's military-backed government, is suspected of being behind the attacks.

FIS Official Blames Attacks on GIA

BR1409133895 Paris LE FIGARO in French 14 Sep 95 p 12

[Interview with Djaffar El-Houari, member of the FIS Executive Committee, by Alexandre Bouilhet in London; date not given: "Attacks: 'I Accuse the GIA'" — first paragraph is LE FIGARO introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Member of the Executive Committee of the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] abroad, 39-year-old Djaffar El-Houari has lived in London for six months, where he is awaiting asylum as a political refugee. As an FIS candidate at the legislative elections in 1991, he left Algeria after the election process was halted. Before being expelled from France in September 1994, Djaffar El-Houari led the Algerian Fraternity in France, a legal facade linked to the FIS. He was assigned to Folembray and was then expelled to Burkina-Faso. Last March, Djaffar El-Houari fled Ouagadougou and secretly entered Great Britain.

[Bouilhet] Who do you blame for the series of attacks that has been carried out in France since early summer?

[El-Houari] I blame the attacks on the GIA [Armed Islamic Group] or on the Algerian military security apparatus. Or even both. I accuse the GIA of assassinating Imam Sahraoui. The GIA issued a communique condemning Sahraoui to death. He was killed one week later. I also accuse the Algerian services, which may be behind the assassination, for sowing panic and confusion. I think the same thing about the other attacks carried out in France. Curiously, the GIA has not claimed responsibility for any of these attacks, but it has not denied anything either. As a FIS official, I can only condemn blind terrorism, which affects innocent people. It is not in our interest to export the armed struggle outside our country.

[Bouilhet] Do you think that it is legitimate in Algeria?

[El-Houari] The struggle against the ruling power is legitimate. There are necessarily deaths on both sides. On the other hand I condemn the killing of innocent people.

[Bouilhet] Are you seeking to dissociate yourself completely from the GIA?

[El-Houari] The FIS and GIA have nothing to do with each other. The FIS is a major political party, with a platform and well-known men. We do not know who leads the GIA. There is some talk that Zitouni is the leader, but nobody knows anything. It is not a political party. The GIA is not seeking electoral support. We condemn the attacks for which they have claimed responsibility, the kidnappings, and the girls who were decapitated. The members of the GIA do not care about the image they present abroad. That is not their problem. Uncontrolled elements may take the initiative for acts of terrorism outside their territory.

[Bouilhet] However, certain members of the FIS have been expelled due to their membership in the GIA.

[El-Houari] If you are referring to Ahmed Zaoui, whom I know, I can assure you that he is still a member of the FIS Executive Committee. A decision by the entire FIS is necessary to make his expulsion effective. This has not happened. However, as in any major political party, men can come and go. They are free to go to another side. But how would it be in our interest to create an armed organization parallel to the FIS and then make things hard on them. The GIA has condemned some of us to death. Rabbah Kebir and Moussa Kraouche are on the lists. You could say that the GIA is now at war against the FIS.

[Bouilhet] Why would the GIA attack France?

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[El-Houari] Because the French Government clearly supports an illegitimate government in order to prevent the FIS from taking power. Yves Bonnet — a Union for French Democracy elected official and former boss of the Directorate of Territorial Security — recently made an appeal to help Algeria. However the billions of dollars and the arms sent to Algeria do not help the Algerian people. They are used directly by the government in Algiers to repress the Islamists. This is also the result of the policy implemented by [former Interior Minister] Charles Pasqua, who was unable to deal with the Islamist problem. The unseeing repression, the raids on Islamist groups, and the Folembray affair were all initiatives interpreted as provoking the Algerian people. Afterwards, the French people rose up against immigrants. Anyone from the Maghreb was thought to be an Islamist. Pasqua succeeded in creating a climate of obsessive fear. The young people in the suburbs are entitled to be fed up. This could explain why the Islamists recruit them to carry out their orders.

[Bouilhet] You mentioned responsibility shared by the GIA and the military security apparatus. Why?

[El-Houari] The military security apparatus is a former master in the art of the double game and manipulation. The Algerian services have every interest in offloading the blame onto the GIA, but since the murder of Sahraoui I have suspected them of being behind all the attacks. The Algerian services have managed to infiltrate the armed groups. Today they are giving names and unveiling the networks.

FIS Calls For 'Ridding Army of Eradicationists'

MM1509102395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Sep 95 p 4

[Report by Salah Jamil: "Salvation Front Calls for Purging Algerian Military of 'Eradicationists'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — While the Algerian Army's role continues to expand in security confrontations with the armed groups, especially in the Algerian capital, which is expected to become the scene of a showdown in the framework of the regime's strategy to make security preparations for the presidential elections and the armed groups' strategy to undermine the security situation and thwart the elections by focusing on the capital, the [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS] called yesterday for "ridding the Army of the eradicationists." This was in response to uncorroborated information about a split in the Army over the military's role in the crisis. Djafar Houari, member of the FIS Executive Committee abroad, stressed in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the existence of what he termed "a move inside the Army by a group officers who believe that the Army's strategy is repressive and leading to the country's collapse. These officers want the Army to abandon the political scene." However, he denied the existence of any organizational contacts between this group of officers and the FIS. He pointed out that "in November 1992 the regime removed some 2,500 men — holding ranks up to colonel — from the Army on suspicion that they were sympathizing with the Islamists." Concluding, Houari called for "purging the establishment of senior hard-line, eradicationist officers."

The dispute inside the military establishment, as explained in today's issue of the AL-RIBAT bulletin, which is closed to the FIS, revolves around two points: "There is a tendency opposed to the idea of organizing the elections before reaching a settlement with the political opposition... and securing adequate conditions to hold these elections, otherwise they would become merely a farce changing nothing of our the reality. This group is asking their leadership in the Army to postpone the elections so that they can be organized in a practical way." The second point is "represented in the military establishment's support of a military figure. Most of the Army generals have abstained from supporting the idea of the military establishment presenting a certain candidate, saying that civilians should be left to compete so that the international community would see that Army is outside the election process and that the process is confined to the political community." However, according to the AL-RIBAT bulletin, the generals' abstention is attributable to "the Army generals' refusal to nominate Zeroual — which caused him and his supporters, first and foremost Bitchin, to organize people's marches by force... merely to show that Zeroual's candidacy is the demand of the people and the masses." The bulletin, on the FIS' behalf, urged some parties in the Army "to make a move to secure a just and comprehensive solution and to curb the eradicationists and adventurers who have suppressed legitimacy and stability in Algeria."

FIS European Supporters Issue Newsletter

MS1409134895 Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT in English 12 Sep 95

[Newsletter "publicizing the Islamic Struggle in Algeria," published by the Islamic Salvation Front "supporters in Europe" — quotation marks as received; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

The Junta show of "elections" will be a non-event!

Praise be to Allah!

A noisy show is being staged in the Algeria political scene under the title of "presidential elections". At a

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first sight, the show finality may appear important and even a vital key to the future of that country but a deeper analysis will surely reveals the show will not have any concrete manifestation on the ground or at least not in the direction expected not by its authors who know better, but by its opportunist, blind or naive supporters!

Let us suppose for a moment that the show will take place with a published figures say of 120 per cent voters participation and that the Junta candidate X or Y (the military Generals are still fiercely debating that!) will win the "elections" by say 119.99 per cent . Then what would probably happen? The Junta will immediately send emissaries all over the globe starting with those who have money to lend, to tell them we are the new "legitimate" owner of Algeria for a period of five years. They may add stupidly: "Have you noticed the overwhelming support of the Algerian people reflected in the results?" And if the Junta is asked about why such figures are superior to unity, the Generals will probably not find it hard to come up with "mercenaries" to explain to the diplomats, media and the people in a "Democratic" or "Islamic" or "Nationalist" language depending on the audience, why the particular conditions of Algeria permits such numbers! Algeria is not a domain of real numbers it is that of imaginary ones and it is just a show!

Then overseas Junta sponsors will feel that now they can bring their unconditional support in the open and will declare loudly in their media and lobbying: "Now that the "legitimacy" has been restored, who ever oppose the "Algerian authorities " by any means is a "TERRORIST"! From now on, only encouragement clapping will be permitted!".

The Military Junta after having accused the Algerian REAL opposition of wanting to internationalise the conflict, has done the very thing. The Junta has "INVITED" "OBSERVERS" from international organisations to "OBSERVE" probably from the military barracks balconies after having put cotton in their ears so as to enjoy "the calm and peace" of that country during the show of "elections"! Even the old "competent" Arab League is apparently interested in the Junta party now that it has solved all the problems between Arab countries from the Golf to Africa as well as the Palestinian one, it is time for that organisation to increase its prerogatives and move into solving internal problems in which Algeria will be the first case. Congratulations to a club whose staff are nominated by the "freely elected Presidents" such as Qadhdhafi, Mubarak, Saddam, Zeroual etc...!

As far as the ongoing struggle in Algeria is concerned, this show of "elections", if it will ever take place will not change a thing. It may only cause some tactical adjustments if overseas financial "assistance" is seen as becoming an important obstacle for the departure of the Junta in all its forms. Then this will probably lead to the Mujahidin military actions that would aim at decreasing the Junta financial income such as making it hard for the ALGERIAN oil and gas to reach the coast for exportation!

News and comments:

What has the Junta military chief of staff been doing in Paris?

The chief of the Junta military staff Lieutenant-General Lamari has visited Paris discreetly last week. Some observers have concluded that this secret trip's objective is "a talk" with the French on the "elections". No one however knows if Lt-Gen. Lamari talked in the name of the Junta Military as a whole or as a representan. of the "eradicators clan". Rumours say that Lt.Gen. Lamari favours for the Junta, the candidature of the "eradicator" Redha Malek as opposed to other Generals who still can not thrust a civilian even if he is more Junta oriented than the Junta itself.

Other observers sees in this trip a summon by the French authorities in relation to recent bomb attacks and argue that "elections" issue has already been discussed a long time ago.

The French secret service ex-boss: "Yes to economical and military assistance to the Algerian government!"

The French secret service ex-boss Mr Yves Bonnet has declared to the French newspaper "LE PARISIEN", that France should continue its economical as well as military assistance to the military regime in Algiers. In his interview on the 05/09/95, Mr Bonnet has said that such assistance will prevent Algeria to fall into what he called "fundamentalism".

Mr Bonnet is actually a member of the French parliament and president of the Franco-Algerian friendship group (an ex-secret police boss??!).

The French Anti-terrorism section (S.A.T) ex-boss in relation to the bomb attacks in France: "be careful of the Algerian secret services manipulation!"

Alain Marsaud, ex-boss of the anti-terrorist section of Paris and a member of the French parliament has declared in an interview to the French newspaper "LE NOUVEAU Dimanche" of the 10/09/95, that he does

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not exclude the Algerian secret services manipulation concerning the recent bombs attacks as well as the directions of investigation, the cases are taking. Mr Marsaud said: "I may be the only observer in France who does not have a certainty concerning the origin of this bomb attack (in Villeurbanne on the 07/09/95 near a Jewish school) but on the contrary, I have many doubts. History has showed us that things are not that simple and that the adversary that we immediately point to is not always the right one.". He also added: "It must be asked that by targeting a given community, was it not meant to create a supplementary resonance case by people who have estimated rightly or wrongly that their precedent attacks did not have enough echoes?".

"I will be candidate with or without your approval!"

The Junta hierarchy has got in its hand a serious case of addiction to power. That of General Zeroual who wants to be a candidate for the "elections" despite opposition from those in the Junta hierarchy who do not want an obvious candidate which may jeopardise the whole show! This rational argument which come from those who care about the survival of the Junta as a whole, does not seem to impress General Zeroual who is actual in another state of mind that even those who have brought him there have a hard time recognising the man who seemed did not care for power at first.

Under the management of the notorious Junta secret service ex- boss, General Betchine,the electoral campaign for General Zeroual seems to have already begun even before his candidacy being formally announced. The strategy chosen for the campaign is to show that General Zeroual is so much popular amongst the Algerian people that instantaneous popular marches are constituted to beg their beloved General to be a candidate. Otherwise what will be the meaning of the elections without the General who was the first to announce them?

Starting from the General Zeroual birth place, General Betchine contacted the local authorities of the city of Batna in order to organise a "spontaneous" march in support of general Zeroual last Saturday (09/09/95). As soon as the mujahedeen heard about the coming up of the "spontaneous" popular march, they send a strong message of "protestation" to the locale authorities which meaning they fortunately understood very well and wisely decided to cancel such "spontaneous" march.

Some big boss in the Junta did not like that the local authorities comply with the Mujahidin "request" and ordered the Junta troops to show their muscles. Many military vehicles were destroyed by explosive and many casualties in the rank of the Junta troops were reported. Some Junta officers were flew to the military hospital of Ain Nadja in Algiers.

The fights were still going on three days latter in the vicinity of Batna, the Aures mountains and in the nearby locality of Ain Touta (30 Km south of Batna). The Junta has been using air force to bombard the maquis.

Definitely a "spontaneous" popular march in support of General Zeroual cost much particularly when known in advance.

Egypt

Mubarak Cancels Appointment of Ambassador to Sudan

NC1409202795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1949 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has issued a republican decree canceling a previous decree on the appointment of Hilmi 'Abd-al-Hamid Budayr as Egypt's ambassador to Sudan.

In the latest diplomatic changes, Ambassador Budayr was named to succeed Egypt's Ambassador to Sudan Hasan Jad-al-Haqq.

'Sources' on Meaning of Cancellation

NC1409211795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Sep (MENA)—Diplomatic sources here said tonight that President Husni Mubarak's decision today annulling a republican decree appointing a new ambassador to Sudan means the reduction of diplomatic representation between Egypt and Sudan to the level of charge d'affaires.

President Husni Mubarak had issued a decree canceling a republican decree on the appointment of Hilmi 'Abd-al-Hamid Budayr as Egypt's ambassador to Sudan, succeeding Ambassador Hasan Jad al- Haqq, whose tour of duty there ended.

The diplomatic sources clarified that this decision is the first official reaction by the Egyptian Government after Ethiopia provided unequivocal evidence on the Sudanese ruling regime's involvement in the failed attack on President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa on 26 June. It also comes after the African commission for conflict resolution denounced the Sudanese regime for its involvement in sheltering terrorists who took part in the attack.

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Japanese Prime Minister Continues Visit

Mubarak Receives Murayama

NC1409114495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1055 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak held a round of talks with Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama at the Presidential Palace this afternoon at the end of the official reception ceremony accorded for the guest. Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi also attended the meeting.

An official reception ceremony was held for the Japanese prime minister at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis where a band played the national anthems of Egypt and Japan. The Egyptian and Japanese prime ministers then reviewed the honor guard. Afterwards, the Japanese Prime Minister shook hands with senior Egyptian well-wishers who were on hand to receive him.

Musa on Mubarak-Murayama Talks

NC1409163895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1340 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak's talks today with Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, which lasted for about three hours, focussed on developments in the Middle East peace process and ways to bolster bilateral relations.

This statement was made by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa after talks between President Mubarak and Mr. Murayama concluded.

'Amr Musa clarified in his statement that the talks between President Husni Mubarak and Mr. Tomiichi Murayama addressed the situation of the peace process, current talks in the region, Japan's role in supporting these talks, and the aid it offers to the Palestinian Authority.

He said that during the talks, the Japanese prime minister affirmed his country's desire to play a bigger role in the peace process and peace-keeping activities in the region now and in the future, particularly in the Syrian Golan Heights after Israel's withdrawal within the framework of any agreement that is reached regarding the Heights issue.

He added that the two leaders also discussed bilateral Egyptian-Japanese relations and economic cooperation between the two countries in the fields of investment, trade, and ever-increasing Japanese tourism to Egypt.

He pointed out that the talks between President Mubarak and the Japanese prime minister also addressed the issue of the bridge that will be built over the Suez Canal and the feasibility study currently being conducted on it.

'Amr Musa said in his statement that talks between President Mubarak and Prime Minister Murayama highlighted the importance of the Japanese role in building a bridge over the Suez Canal. He pointed out that this matter was previously raised during President Mubarak's visit to Tokyo at the beginning of the year.

He clarified that this bridge will play a big role toward developing regional cooperation because it will be the biggest bridge in Asia and Africa and it will link the countries of North Africa to the rest of the Middle East. Therefore, it will play a large role in linking the eastern countries of the Arab world with the western.

Musa added that during the talks, the two leaders also exchanged opinions on Japan's stance on international issues in general, as well as in the Middle East region, the Gulf, and Africa. There are some tripartite cooperation agreements between Egypt and Japan and some African countries in the fields of training, technology, and other areas.

He pointed out that talks will resume on 15 September between Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and the Japanese prime minister.

'Amr Musa said he will meet with the Japanese prime minister at his place of residence in Cairo to discuss some aspects of Egyptian-Japanese foreign policy and cooperation.

Answering a question on the feasibility study and Japan's contribution toward constructing the bridge across the Suez Canal, 'Amr Musa said the biggest part of the bridge project will be implemented as a result of a Japanese grant. He clarified that the particular details pertaining to the feasibility study will be discussed by the concerned ministers of the two countries, lead by the Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Civil Aviation.

On Japan's stance on the peace process, 'Amr Musa affirmed that Japan supports the peace process' various tracks. As is clear, Japan's interest in the peace process is increasing because there is progress in Japan's openness regarding foreign policy. He said Japan is no longer a closed country; on the contrary, it has now become a country that is open to its direct neighbors and other regions such as the Middle East, from where it imports most of its oil.

Answering a question on whether today's talks touched on the subject of Bosnia, 'Amr Musa said that the two leaders touched on this matter in general terms only. He clarified that during tomorrow's talks with the Japanese

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prime minister, a number of issues relating to the Bosnia problem will be reviewed.

On supporting Bosnia with arms, the Egyptian foreign minister said in his statement that there are negotiations currently taking place regarding the Bosnia problem. This is a peaceful process which we all encourage, particularly since the Bosnian Government accepted the framework of the latest initiative which is originally a U.S. initiative. At the same time, NATO is raiding Serbian positions in an attempt to break their stubbornness and their refusal to move toward peace.

'Amr Musa added that in light of these two developments, we are not talking about escalating the military conflict now. But in the case of failure, Bosnia must be supported and we, as an Islamic nation, have to support Bosnia.

On increasing the number of permanent members in the Security Council, one of which would be Japan, the foreign minister said that this is one of the topics he will discuss tomorrow with the Japanese prime minister.

Japanese Spokesman Views Talks

NC1409173095 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1600 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Sep (MENA)—The official Japanese spokesman, Mr. Hiroshi Hashimoto, has stated that the 45-minute meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama addressed the current situation in the Middle East and how to bolster bilateral relations.

In a news conference he held today, he said the two sides affirmed during the meeting the importance of continuing negotiations on the Palestinian—Israeli peace process. Murayama expressed his country's hopes that these negotiations will result in an agreement very soon.

He added that Murayama praised the important role Egypt is playing in order to realize reconciliation between Israel and the Arab countries and the efforts President Husni Mubarak is exerting in this regard. He noted that he will soon ask the Israeli authorities during his visit to Israel to speed up the negotiations.

He clarified that Murayama informed President Mubarak that Japan will send its envoys to the region to give momentum to the negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track.

He said Murayama affirmed that President Mubarak's recent visit to Japan was successful and fruitful and that the two sides will work on enhancing cooperation between them, particulary since the Japanese Government supports Egyptian efforts in the economic reform process and contributes toward introducing market mechanisms into Egypt's economy. In this regard, Japan sent experts and advisors to Egypt last June and will send two more advisors in the near future.

He said Murayama clarified to President Mubarak that Japan has decided to open a trade credit in the medium term for joint projects between the two countries and that some projects are being discussed now.

Official Japanese spokesman Hashimoto said that with regard to building the Suez Canal bridge, Murayama explained to President Mubarak current developments in this project. He pointed out that the studies relating to this bridge will end in November 1996. Experts from the Japanese and Egyptian sides are now conducting feasibility studies, drawing designs, and choosing the location which had not yet been specified. They have so far had positive results. He added that Murayama affirmed the importance of activating the private sector between the two countries which will contribute toward expanding trade relations between them.

Answering a question on Japanese aid for the reconstruction of Palestine, the official spokesman noted that Murayama clarified that the Japanese Government, which contributes around $200 million in the form of aid through the international organizations, has decided to actually send aid directly to the Palestinians. He said Murayama will discuss aid issues during an upcoming meeting with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

Regarding the French nuclear tests, the official spokesman pointed out that although this topic was not discussed during the meeting between President Mubarak and Murayama, Japan objects to nuclear testing, whether by France or China, on various levels. Japan will continue efforts to urge countries that did not sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty to do so.

Official Comments on Libya, Palestinian Issue

NC1509093795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0925 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—Egypt is currently holding contacts with Libya to halt the mass expulsion of Palestinians from its territory. Stating this, a responsible Foreign Ministry source expressed the hope that the problem would be solved soon. During his latest visit to Egypt, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat asked Egypt to mediate with the Libyan authorities to stop the expulsion of Palestinians from Libya.

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Musa Comments on Bosnia, Oslo Agreement

NC1509110095 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0930 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that the second anniversary of the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement in Oslo can be viewed as positive or negative, depending on the progress of the Palestinian-Israeli track.

In statements today, he said much depends on the agreement currently being negotiated between the Palestinians and Israelis. The positive nature of such an agreement and its fairness will give credibility to the Oslo agreement; anything else would erode that agreement, Musa said.

Touching on Bosnia, Musa emphasized that Egypt supports the ongoing peace process and the initiative to find a solution to the problem as much as the Bosnian Government supports it. The foreign minister said the issue is being negotiated and that everyone is awaiting an outcome. If efforts to solve the problem peacefully fail, Bosnia must be enabled to defend itself, he said, adding: In this context, the Islamic contact group's decision not to recognize the Security Council's arms embargo must take effect.

Commenting on the agreement between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia [FYROM], Musa remarked that Egypt views it as a positive step toward normalization in the Balkans, particularly as it was signed by two friendly states that have good relations with Egypt.

The two countries signed an agreement at the UN headquarters in New York yesterday with U.S. mediation. The agreement settles the dispute that erupted after FYROM gained its independence.

Journalists Comment on Muslim Brotherhood Referrals

NC1309201895 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
10 Sep 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The Press Association Council yesterday denounced the referral of Muslim Brotherhood [MB] members to military courts. The council expressed its profound concern over this measure which violates the constitution and principles of justice.

The council emphasized that those who have been referred to military courts reject violence and use democratic means for reform.

In a statement issued by consensus from all members, the council stressed the right of every civilian citizen to stand before an ordinary magistrate.

The Press Association council appealed to the president of the Republic to revoke the referral decision.

In its resolutions passed on 7 September, the third general congress of journalists denounced the referral of civilians to military courts.

Report Says Trade Balance Reflects Increase

NC1509101395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0800 GMT 15 Sep 95

[Figures as received]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—The Egyptian balance of trade rose 298.124 million pounds in January and February over the same period last year. The volume of trade increased by 886.148 million pounds during the same period.

A report by the Central Apparatus for Public Mobilization and Statistics shows that the balance of trade during January and February 1995 reached 3.599 billion pounds against 3.201 billion in the same period last year.

The report points out that the volume of Egyptian trade in the period January to February 1995 reached 6.927 billion pounds against 6.417 billion during the same period last year.

According to the report, Egyptian national exports, including reexports, reached 1.664 billion pounds in January and February 1995. The figure includes 198.12 million in petroleum exports and 10.72 million in reexports.

The apparatus points out in its report that Egyptian exports totaled 1.270 billion, including 566.254 million in petroleum exports and 27.525 million in reexports, in the same period last year.

Total imports in the period January to February this year reached 5.264 billion pounds, including 5.263 billion for non-petroleum exports, against 4.671 billion, including 4.670 in non-petroleum imports, in the same period last year.

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Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi, Jallud Said in 'Stormy' Meeting

MM1409135895 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 13 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by Mahmud Ma'ruf: "Stormy Meeting Between al-Qadhdhafi and Jallud After Latter Threatened To Publish 'Clarifications' About 1 September Speech"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Rabat, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — Diplomatic sources have said that a stormy meeting took place last week between Libyan leader Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, who used to be described as No. 2 in the Libyan leadership.

The sources added that Jallud criticized the Libyan leader for the negative points he made against him in the speech delivered in Surt on 1 September. Jallud considered these points a deliberate attempt to belittle his role in the Libyan revolution, as he was not referred to as one of those who played an active part.

The sources pointed out that friends of both leader Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi and Maj. 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud succeeded in bringing them together after Jallud had threatened to publish clarifications about what was said in al-Qadhdhafi's speech. [passage omitted]

The sources said that, because the dialogue between Jallud and the colonel reached an impasse, Jallud stayed at home and froze his duties. The sources denied that Jallud has left Libya over the past three years, that he has applied for political asylum in a Maghreb state, or that he has been put under house arrest.

The sources stressed that Jallud has been seen more than once over recent months driving his car in Tripoli. The sources said that the Libyan leader had requested to meet Jallud more than once, but the latter refused to meet with al-Qadhdhafi unless the colonel had something new as regards running the state. The sources did not confirm whether last week's meeting brought something new. However, the sources said that the meeting was held at Jallud's request to directly criticize al-Qadhdhafi. As is known, Col. Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi celebrated the 26th anniversary of the 1 September revolution on his own. He was not accompanied by any of his comrades, members of the Revolution Command Council or the historic leadership of the revolution.

Observers had expected 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud to appear during the celebrations, specially at this stage, in which Libya is experiencing an escalation in the confrontation between the authorities and fundamentalist tendencies, toward which Maj. 'Abd- al-Salam Jallud takes a hard line.

Jallud resumed his activities for a short while during the coup attempt that occurred a few months ago in the Bani Walid area, but he returned to his home after the attempted coup was smashed. Jallud accuses some of those around Col. al-Qadhdhafi of trying to keep him away from his comrades.

Statement Issued on Palestinians' 'Voluntary' Return

LD1509094395 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0800 GMT 15 Sep 95

[Statement by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity, to JANA; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Some media channels have published statements on the voluntary return of Palestinians, resident in Libya, to their homes.

It has been noticed that most of these statements were based on some people's belief that to create a media storm on the return could prevent those Palestinians from going ahead with their decisions, and forgetting that their decision to return stemmed from their determination to assert their right to return to Palestine while facing the impotence of the authority of Abu Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] in Gaza and Jericho.

The statements have exposed the fragility of the Palestinian Authority in Gaza and Jericho, the true nature of Abu Ammar's capitulatory [word indistinct] when he granted a legitimate existence to the Israeli entity, and that that Authority is a mere illusion — the Palestinian ambassador to Jordan has said that the Palestinian Authority does not have the sovereign right to allow the return of Palestinians, even to Gaza and Jericho, and that the Israeli enemy has rejected the Palestinians' right to return to their land in any way.

Some Palestinian officials have been stricken by fear as a result of the decision made by some of their people to return to their homeland, and they have stressed that there is no place for those Palestinians to return to — unaware that by making these statements, they are exposing the true nature of their accord with the Israeli enemy, which refuses even to talk about the fate of the sons of the Palestinian people who were made homeless in 1948 and 1967.

The Palestinians' decision to return to their land will continue to interact all over the world only to confirm the following facts:

1. The reality of the treacherous agreement signed by Abu Ammar with the Israeli enemy with all its disregard for the Palestinian people's rights, at the forefront of which is the right to return to Palestine, and its neglect of

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the conditions in which the Palestinians of the diaspora are living.

2. The right of the Palestinian people to return to their land in order to let their feet take root on it and continue the struggle against the Israeli enemy inside Palestine.

3. The decision to return will expose the contradiction the world is living in; for while the West is blessing the programmed forced return of the Jews of the world to Palestine, the same West is usurping the right of the Palestinian people to return to their land and ignoring the conditions of the Palestinian refugees for more than half a century.

Arab officials were expected to bless the decision of the Palestinians to return to their homeland, to consider it an historic day, and enhance it by allowing them to cross over to Palestine through the Arab territories in recognition of the legitimate right of the Palestinian people and in support of their blessed return to their land.

Source on Decision To Return Palestinians

LD1409131495 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1200 GMT 14 Sep 95

[Statement by "an authoritative source at the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation" on the EU Presidency statement "on the return of Palestinian citizens to their land"; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The decision to return the Palestinian citizens [from Libya] to their homeland from which they were expelled as a result of a conspiracy which led to the settling [in Palestine] of Jews who were displaced from Europe, does not violate their human rights [word indistinct]. (?Rather), it is an assertion of a right which the Palestinians have demanded and fought for for many years.

Also, the return of Palestinian citizens to the land of Palestine is in response to the Palestinian will, supported by the international community, which affirmed their right to return to their homeland and practice the right of self-determination. At the same time, the decision is a test to explore the effectiveness of the proposed solutions of the current so-called peace process in the region.

We call on the EU, if it is really concerned about the human rights of the Palestinian citizens, to direct its call to the Israeli occupation authorities, which bans Palestinians from returning to their land, [urging them] to recognize the Palestinians' legitimate right to return and establish their independent state.

Palestinians Confirm 'Determination' To Leave

LD1409151295 Tripoli JANA in English
1457 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Benghazi, Al Fatih [September] 14, JAMAHARIYA NEWS AGENCY — The Palestinian masses in Al Baraka in the area of Sahl, in Benghazi have confirmed their absolute support for the speech of the leader of the revolution, on the 'id of all 'ids the 26th anniversary of the great Al Fatih revolution and confirmed their determination to return to occupied Palestine to expose the submissive solutions.

This came in a cable they sent to the leader of the revolution. The cable [words indistinct] Colonel Muammar al-Qadhdhafi, the secretary of Arab nationalism and the launcher of the greatest, universal revolution, during these days when [words indistinct] of jubilation and celebration have become consecutive on the 'id of all 'ids, the 26th anniversary of the great Al Fatih revolution we confirm to you, O revolutionary brother, that we are with you in your instructions to march towards the occupied homeland in order to build, construct and defy in pride and dignity the blockade which they imposed on us in order to keep us away from our occupied homeland in Palestine: and there we will transform the borders of our occupied homeland into a hell and a volcanoe which erupts all the hopes in submission to the unjust enemy.

The Palestinian masses added in their cable: We strongly denounce the silence of Arab governments vis a vis American arrogance and imperialism and the presence of their fleets and war ships in Arab territories and waters and we are saying to them we will never bow and we will remain steadfast and defiant of their unfair blockade imposed on the great Jamahariya as a consequence of its revolutionary positions in defending the oppressed everywhere.

Tourism Agreement Signed With Algeria

LD1409145495 Tripoli JANA in English
1428 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, Al Fateh [September] 14, JAMAHARIYA NEWS AGENCY — The declaration of the establishment of the Libyan Arab Joint Tourism and Traditional Industries Committee was signed in Tripoli yesterday.

The declaration was signed by the secretary of the general People's Committee for Tourism and by Mohammed Bin Salem, the minister of tourism and traditional industries in sisterly Algeria.

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The signing ceremony was attended by the Algerian ambassador to the Great Jamahariya and members of the Libyan-Arab Algerian joint committee.

The committee will be in charge of reviewing all agreements and protocols by the higher joint executive committee and the protocol of the meetings signed between the secretariat of the General People's Committee for Tourism and the Algerian Ministry of Tourism and Traditional Industries. It will also study all the accords with a view to laying down a scientific executive programme aimed at developing tourism and traditional industries in both countries, the encouragement of tourist investment, tourist training and tourism groups particularly in the area of desert tourism.

Article Gives Assessment of Embargo

95AF0162A Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 11 Aug 95 pp 1702-1705

[Article by Sabah Naaoush: "Libya's Foreign Finances"]

[FBIS Translated Text] All of the country's economic and financial activities are based on foreign finances which are led by petroleum exports. The latter were not affected by UN sanctions; the embargo is producing some limited effects which are not always negative ones.

The only sector directly and heavily affected by the embargo is international transport. Tens of thousands of Libyans used to go abroad by plane to spend vacations in countries of the region, to make the pilgrimage to Mecca, or get medical care in Europe. In 1991, the transfer of hard currency by Libyan travelers was $784 million. In 1992 this figure was $452 million and in 1993 it was $166 million. At the same time, UN sanctions have increased the cost of transport. In 1991, taxes paid for air and sea transport were $379 million. In 1992 they increased to $436 million for sea transport alone.

Is The Military Embargo Effective?

One of the basic characteristics of the country's foreign and domestic finances is the extent of military spending. During the period between 1983 and 1992, military spending accounted for a total of $22 billion or an average of $2.2 billion per annum. Whereas within the framework of the development plan credits earmarked for industry, education, and health did not exceed $1 billion per annum. Military spending dropped from $3.7 billion in 1983 to $1.7 billion in 1989. This drop resulted basically from the drop in the price of petroleum. But this spending remains high inasmuch as it accounts for 8% of GDP (12% in 1983), 35% of budgetary spending, and 38% of petroleum revenues. In 1989, weapons purchases were $499 million ($1,359 million in 1986). Between 1985 and 1989, Libya imported $3,186 million worth of weapons.

The Security Council resolution adopted on 15 April 1992, which established a military and air embargo, was supposed to result in reducing this spending. In this regard, the embargo is said to have produced some positive effects, but it is not necessary to emphasize the fact that overarming applies a brake to socio-economic development.

It is clear that the country's leaders now want a reduction in public spending in order to cope with the financial deficit. But recent official statements pertaining to the outright elimination of military spending seem to be propaganda.

The People's General Congress [Parliament] is reported not to have provided for defense spending as part of this fiscal year's budget. For his part, this past 5 July the Libyan president spoke of a year of peace. "We are going to adopt a pacifist policy. Even if someone attacks us, we won't pay any attention," he stated. A reorganization of the army must be involved, something which undoubtedly presents a major danger to the government.

Libya is encountering huge difficulties in the area of imports of military materiel and individual parts that are essential for the petroleum industry. Certain reports (such as the one issued by the International Institute for Strategic Studies) state that close to 1,200 tanks (one-half the arsenal) are no longer operational owing to the lack of individual parts. Other military equipment is experiencing the same problem. But the sanctions are still not very effective. Well before the Security Council, the Americans and the Europeans had imposed a military embargo on Libya. But imports of weapons from outside the West continued.

The new element in the UN's embargo is in the area of the availability of petroleum receipts. The latter have not been frozen, since they are not considered to be foreign assets. But the Libyan authorities can no longer freely use them. Receipts from petroleum purchases are deposited directly into an account in a bank in Europe. Each firm that does business with Libya must have proof of this deposit. Libya can then open letters of credit on this bank in order to acquire items that are unaffected by the embargo, such as food and pharmaceutical products.

There is nothing that can prove that the international reserves deposited outside the West are not helping to carry out the operations prohibited by the UN. What is more, the Security Council's resolutions do not draw up a detailed list of the banks in which Libya can have an

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account. The Libyan Government can thus purchase a European bank and open agencies in the main European Union capitals. Receipts from petroleum sales deposited in this bank are then transferable to a financial institution located in the Near East. One Greek bank said to be experiencing financial problems has been targeted. The Libyan Arab Foreign Bank has increased its shares in the Arab Hellenic Bank, which deals mainly with Middle Eastern countries. In recent years, Libya's share has risen from 30 to 86%.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Exports	7,264	11,480	10,068	9,974	7,680	7,340	7,800	8,500
Imports	6,500	7,660	7,580	8,100	8,260	6,277	6,4 91	8,320
Trade balance	+764	+3,820	+2,488	+1,874	-580	+1,063	+1,039	+180
Services and transfers	-1,854	-1,629	-1,833	-1,649	-1,710	-1,641	-1,393	-1,845
Current transactions	-1,090	+2,191	+655	+225	-2,290	-578	-354	-1,665
Balance of payments	-1,326	+1,227	+485	+401	-1,679	no data	no data	no data
International reserves	4,517	6,466	6,302	6,888	4,703	4,673	no data	no data

Source: Various issues of Central Bank annual reports and of the British journal THE ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE UNIT.

The Deficit in Foreign Balances

Libya is not suffering from foreign debt. Its debt is estimated at $4,340 million, i.e. 18% of GNP. It comes, generally speaking, from loans made from countries outside the OECD. Service on the debt is $765 million, the equivalent of 10% of exports. As such, financial obligations are honored without major difficulties. Owing to the financial deficit and the freeze on foreign assets, the government has committed to repaying its debt with petroleum deliveries. In this regard, agreements have been signed with Turkey, India, and South Korea.

So the country is slightly in debt to North African states. Unlike the petroleum countries of the Gulf, Libya is not, on the other hand, a major donor of foreign aid. In 1980, which was a record year for petroleum exports ($23 billion) and international reserves ($13 billion), aid was $376 million, a sum which did not exceed 1.1% of GNP. Over the years, aid given to developing countries declined, reaching $76 million in 1987, a sum that represented a mere 1.2% of petroleum receipts as contrasted with 7.0% in Kuwait and 16.3% in Saudi Arabia. No increase has been recorded since then. Let us note that Libyan aid is heavily politicized and cannot be given without economic considerations.

Up until 1986, the trade balance showed a surplus exceeding $3 billion and the balance in current transactions was also in surplus. In 1987, the price of petroleum plunged and petroleum receipts were $5,540 million as compared with $8,120 million the previous year. Owing to the increase in imports, the trade surplus rose to $250 million. Because the services and transfers accounts were always out of balance, the current transactions balance showed a deficit of $1,290 million.

For the first time in many years, in 1988 the trade balance showed a $100 million deficit due to the decrease in petroleum exports and the stagnation of imports. The deficit in the current transactions balance was $1,740 million, i.e. 16% of GNP. The following year an improvement was noted in the area of the trade balance but the current transactions balance remained in a deficit.

On 2 August 1990 Iraq invaded Kuwait. Immediately the price of crude oil doubled. The average price for Libyan petroleum rose from $15 per barrel in May 1990 to $37 per barrel in August of the same year. Thus receipts increased considerably. Total exports reached $11,480 million, i.e. a 58% increase when compared with the preceding year. The trade balance and the current transactions balance recorded surpluses of $3,820 and $2,191 million respectively. Starting with the end of the Gulf war in February 1991, the petroleum market regained its stability and prices returned to their pre-crisis level. Petroleum receipts followed suit. The following year, exports decreased whereas imports

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increased. However foreign balances have remained in surplus.

In 1993 the deficit became widespread, creating a major financial problem. Revenues from foreign investments were insufficient to cover this deficit. Foreign assets were frozen owing to the implementation of expanded UN sanctions. As such, they cannot be used to finance the deficit. Furthermore the country cannot compensate for the reduction in petroleum receipts since non-petroleum exports are very weak ($300-$400 million, i.e. only 5% of total exports) and come mainly from chemical products which are also derived from petroleum. Naturally this situation has weakened the dinar and brought about a major price rise that is close to 50%.

Libya's foreign trade is closely tied to the market of western countries that are major consumers of crude. Nine barrels of petroleum out of ten are sold there. Exports to these countries have recorded a significant decline. Libyan exports to Germany, France, and Italy went from 810,000 barrels per day in 1992 to 762,500 barrels per day in 1993, i.e. a decrease of 2.4 million tonnes per annum. This decline is in no way linked with economic sanctions but rather is the result of a general phenomenon relative to the slowdown in economic activities and sometimes to ecological considerations. These three countries' overall consumption went from 5,846,000 barrels per year in 1992 to 5,610,000 barrels per day in 1993, i.e. a decrease of 11.8 million tonnes per annum. This is five times the decrease of Libyan exports.

European countries have cut down on their imports not just from Libya but also from all OPEC countries in order to increase their supplies from the North Sea (Great Britain and Norway). Certain oil-exporting countries are even more affected than Libya. By way of exampie, France's imports from Saudi Arabia were 800,000 barrels per day in 1978 and reached 442,000 barrels per day in 1993. Whereas during the same period imports from the North Sea went from 62,000 to 286,000 barrels per day (figures published by the Professional Petroleum Committee, Paris 1995).

It should be noted that the relationship between the decrease in petroleum consumption and the decrease of Libyan exports differs from one country to the next. In 1993 Germany decreased its petroleum consumption by 7.4% whereas its imports from Libya only decreased by 0.3%. Italy decreased its consumption by 1.8% and its imports from Libya by 5.4%. In the case of France, these figures were 2.5% and 31.2% respectively. Unlike Germany and Italy, France has had practically no further petroleum interests in Italy since 1990, when Elf Aquitaine decided to abandon its activities owing to the profitability of deposits. On the other hand, French groups are producing 12 million tonnes per annum in the North Sea, which accounts for one-quarter of the production by French firms operating abroad.

This decrease in the demand for petroleum is having a major influence on Libya's production and on its foreign and domestic finances. It is hard to find new customers to make up for this loss. So Libya must reduce its production, which has gone from 1.3 to 1.2 million barrels per day. At the same time, imports have increased slightly, reaching $8,260 million in 1993 as compared with 8,100 million the preceding year. So the trade balance showed a major $580 million deficit. Owing to the negative figure in the services and revenues accounts, the current transactions balance recorded a $2,290 million deficit.

In 1994 the price for petroleum dropped again, and because of this overall exports dropped to $7,340 million, i.e. a 4% drop when compared with the preceding year. Imports also dropped by 24% owing to measures taken by the government and the freeze in foreign assets. This led to the drop in the current transactions balance.

The current fiscal year is reported to be one of a slight economic upswing in the industrialized countries. Owing to the freeze in production decided upon by OPEC and set at 24.5 million barrels per day, the price is supposed to increase by $0.60. Libyan exports would then increase 6% and imports would decrease 12%. So the deficit in the current transactions balance would drop.

Financial relationships are marked not only by the deficit but also by food dependency. In 1993 agricultural imports were $1,219 million, i.e. 16% of overall imports. One-half of that amount was spent to purchase basic foodstuffs especially wheat, sugar, and milk. In fact agriculture suffers from a major handicap, i.e. the lack of water. The country is a desert and arable land, located in the Tripoli and Benghazi areas, accounts for not more than 2% of land area. The government is making praiseworthy financial efforts to improve agricultural production and ensure food self-sufficiency, something that has become a priority. In this spirit, they have allocated $25 billion for the construction of the Great Artificial River. This is the equivalent of three years of petroleum exports. This is without doubt a better way of using public monies. It should still be noted that a major segment of this sum of money came from a special tax assessed on each Libyan.

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Foreign Investments Are Flourishing

Revenues from foreign investments were $364 million in 1991 and $467 million in 1992. Despite the embargo, they have been tending to increase owing to the increase of capital injected into these investments. The accumulation of petroleum receipts (especially from the 1970's) has made it possible to invest a part of these abroad in the form of bank deposits and direct investments especially in the area of the petroleum industry in Europe. A holding company was set up in 1988 and registered in Curacao: the Oil Investments International Company [Oilinvest]. Its $450 million capital was initially shared equally by the National Oil Corporation, the Libyan Arab Foreign Investment Company, and the Libyan Arab Foreign Bank. These three commercial institutions report directly to the Libyan Government. Fearing it would impede the company's activities owing to the UN sanctions, Libya sold most of its partnership shares to five Italian businessmen. Currently Libya owns 45% of the shares.

Oilinvest brings together a certain number of companies and operates in Italy, Germany, and Switzerland. It is in the process of expanding its activities in Spain and France. According to reports, Oilinvest owns 2,730 service stations and distribution centers in Europe. Operating through its subsidiaries (Tamoil in particular), it has 5% of the Italian market and 10% of the Swiss market. The firm owns two-thirds of the Swiss Collombey refinery (capacity: 70,000 barrels per day) and almost all of the Italian Cremona refinery (105,000 barrels per day). The company hopes to expand its operations by investing the sum of $666 million over a relatively short period. In 1997 the number of its service stations could reach 4,368, of which 2,274 would be in Italy and 1,000 in France. Its assets might be in the range of $3,875 million.

It is very obvious that investing a given amount brings in lesser receipts in exploration and improving deposit productivity than do refining and distributing. Profits are highest if the country sees to it that the entire petroleum industry chain is ensured, that is, production, refining, and distribution. This is what Libya is doing through Oilinvest. The refineries it has in Europe process the crude coming from El-Sider and Syrte. Refined products are sold through its own stations.

Libya is not interested solely in the petroleum industry. It is also a shareholder in several financial firms and hopes to consolidate its position.

The Decline in International Reserves

A study of the foregoing picture shows that the increase in international reserves in 1990 was due to the Gulf crisis which brought about an increase in the price of crude and thus in export receipts. The following year did not produce a significant change. In 1992 reserves increased 9%. This was in the wake of an improvement in revenues from foreign investments and the decrease in transfers from immigrant workers. So the embargo has not had any negative effects on international reserves. The latter, estimated at $6,888 million by the Central Bank and $7,096 million by the IMF, even turned in a record since 1983. The spectacular drop between 1993 and 1994 did not arise from the embargo but from the drop in petroleum exports due to the market. It also came from the increase in capital transfers made by commercial banks. This expenditure turned into foreign investments and subsequently increased their yield.

However official estimates of international reserves differ fundamentally from those of the IMF. According to the Fund, from $6,667 million in 1991 they rose to $7,096 million in 1992 and to $7,103 million in 1993 (International Financial Statistics). This estimate difference, which was not very noteworthy in 1992, has become huge, and cannot be ascribed to calculations methods. It stands at $2,393 million.

The economic and financial data do not currently suggest there will be an increase in international reserves. The figures put forth by the IMF are provisional and are subject to revision. For its part, the Libyan Government has long minimized the amount of its reserves. Exaggerating the ill effects of the embargo has resulted in underestimating them further. One thing is certain: foreign balances are running a deficit, and this is something that creates pressure on the amount of international reserves, since they are practically the only means of coping with the financial imbalance and the balance of payments.

Two remarks deserve attention. First, during the first quarter of 1992, the Libyans were convinced that the Security Council was going to impose economic sanctions. So they thought it prudent to transfer two to three billion dollars from European banks to Bahrein banks. Second, the decrease in international reserves is not disastrous since part of these reserves feeds foreign investments. So there exists a direct link between the drop in international reserves and the increase in these investments.

Revenue From Immigrants Decreases

As for immigration, it is recent and is the result of financial difficulties in surrounding countries and restrictions imposed by the Gulf states on new arrivals.

The overall workforce is about 1.2 million people (2 million according to some estimates), of which two-

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thirds are foreigners, especially Egyptians, Tunisians, and Asians. Most of these workers, who work in many socio-economic areas, have few qualifications. But there are also engineers, teachers, and doctors. They immigrated for purely economic reasons and did not find the conditions for which they had hoped. Their salaries are low and the standard of living is high, especially since the embargo. Foreigners cannot purchase subsidized food products at low prices because state cooperatives are limited to Libyans. A civil servant's average salary is 200 dinars per month, the equivalent of $50 according to the parallel market rate.

Most immigrants earn a much lower salary. According to Central Bank statistics, salary transfers were $531 million in 1991, $317 million in 1992, and $281 million in 1993. With one simple calculation, one sees that a worker transfers only $30 per month as contrasted with $400 for a transfer made by an immigrant worker in Saudi Arabia. Hidden behind this average are major inequalities between workers and professionals.

But, whatever the immigrants' lack of qualification may be, salary transfers are slowing up. Furthermore the trade deficit and the deterioration in the international reserves situation have produced a high demand for the dollar, leading to a devaluation of the dinar and an increase in the price of a greenback on the black market. Officially the dinar is currently worth $2.78 as compared with $3.23 last year, i.e. a 16% devaluation, that being on top of another 12% devaluation that occurred in 1992. Whereas the dollar is worth five dinars on the black market. This situation is leading to the final departures of a certain number of immigrant workers.

Besides, immigration is politicized. In the past, tens of thousands of people were expelled in the wake of political problems with their home countries. In 1983 Tripoli expelled 150,000 Egyptians and Tunisians. Several years later, relations with neighboring countries improved and Libya immediately accepted an even greater number of immigrants. For the past three years, the emphasis has been put on foreign governments' diplomatic position with respect to the embargo. That is the reason there are so many Egyptian workers.

The foreign financial problems stem from the petroleum market and the inadequacy of economic and financial policy. The embargo is not aggravating them. Quite the opposite: it is helping decrease military expenses and could, in the long term, lead to better management of financial affairs.

Mauritania

President Holds News Conference on Talks in Paris

LD1409224095 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Sep 95

[Report on news conference with President Maaouiya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya in Paris; date not given—questions and answers are read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following talks that he held with French President Jacques Chirac, His Excellency President Maaouiya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya answered questions addressed to him by the international press.

The first question was about the content of the talks that His Excellency held with his French counterpart.

Answer: We talked about issues of common concern, and we also discussed cooperation between France and Mauritania. We noted that this cooperation is excellent, and that the relations between our two countries are also very good.

Question: Did you discuss the Algerian problem?

Answer: I told you that we discussed issues of common concern.

Question: Did you discuss the issue of the Mauritanian refugees in Senegal?

Answer: As far as we are concerned, there are no Mauritanian refugees in Senegal. We believe that there are some individuals who were expelled, or emigrated willingly in the aftermath of the painful events which took place between Mauritanian and Senegal in 1989, and that the majority of those individuals have returned to Mauritania. The rest could return to their homeland whenever they want. As I have repeatedly said, and I repeat it here, no one could stay outside his homeland if he wanted to return to it.

Question: Concerning the democratic process in Mauritania, it is said that before his visit to Dakar, President Chirac demanded some openness which would allow for the opposition and the press to be more expressive. What do you say about that, Your Excellency?

Answer: The independent press in Mauritania is the most free in the continent. As for the democratic process, it has taken place in our country. We are a democratic country, and a state governed by law. Our conditions are progressing at their best in this sphere.

Question: Some talk about the problem of the Mauritanian blacks. What is your point of view in this matter, Your Excellency?

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Answer: We do not distinguish between the different parts of our people. It is a single united people. It enjoys peace and security, and carry out all the efforts in its power for overcoming backwardness.

Question: Your Excellency, did you discuss with President Chirac the issue of halting fishing?

Answer: No, we did not discuss this issue. The halting of fishing is a purely Mauritanian issue. We have noticed the existence of excessive exploitation of the fishing grounds in our country for many years. Whenever necessity arises, we decide on a halt to fishing for a specific period to guarantee the restoration of the fish stocks in natural circumstances. This decision is based on the insistence of the specialized scientists who follow up for us the conditions of the restoration of marine resources.

Question: Your Excellency, how is the Arab Maghreb Union?

Answer: It is well, and in good condition, and the matters are progressing naturally.

Question: Your Excellency, did you invite President Chirac to visit Nouakchott?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Will this visit take place?

Answer: Yes, President Chirac will visit Nouakchott.

Question: What are the spheres in particular in which you want France to help you?

Answer: I have told you that the cooperation between our two countries is excellent, and is progressing under good circumstances. We are satisfied with this cooperation.

The president's talks with the French president were attended on behalf of Mauritania by Mohamed Salem Ould Lekhal, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; and Benahi Ould Ahmed Taleb, director of the president's office. As for the French side, the meeting was attended by [name indistinct], adviser at the French presidency, and two of President Chirac's diplomatic advisers.

Sudan

Sources Report 6 Killed, 40 Injured in Unrest

NC1409192795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1835 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Sep (MENA)—Sudanese opposition sources in Cairo have stated that six Sudanese citizens were killed and 40 were injured in the demonstrations that erupted today in Khartoum.

The sources added that the Sudanese Government was surprised to see members of the Sudanese Army take part in the demonstrations wearing their official uniform.

A spokesman for the opposition Sudanese Ummah Party based in Cairo said there are confirmed reports that al-Turabi, leader of National Islamic Front in Sudan, has left his home in the suburb of Riyad in Khartoum and gone to one of the guest houses 30 kms away from Khartoum, contrary to earlier reports that he had left the country for security purposes. The guest houses belong to the Sudanese Security Department.

Police Sweep Khartoum; Death Toll Said Rising

AB1409203595 Paris AFP in English
1917 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By Mohammad Ali Said]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, Sept 14 (AFP) — Sudanese police combed the capital on Thursday [14 September] raiding homes and arresting suspects after violent anti-government protests which have left at least three dead.

Anti-riot police patrolled the streets for a second day, especially around the five universities that have been the flashpoint for the worst protests since President 'Umar al-Bashir seized power in a military coup in 1989.

Security services raided houses used "as centers for running the subversive activities and demonstrations," the official news agency SUNA said, adding arrests had been made and weapons found.

Raids against houses came after "intensive surveillance and follow-up operations against leftist elements," SUNA said. The main targets were members of the communist party outlawed since 1987.

The student body at the University of Sudan for Science and Technology said two students who were members of the dissolved party had been arrested among 23 detained at a meeting at a home in Omdurman, the twin capital.

Three of the group were students at the University of Khartoum, it said in a statement.

Anti-government demonstrations continued Thursday in Khartoum, the opposition group Ummah said in a statement released in Cairo.

"The protests broke out Wednesday night and continued Thursday in the center of Khartoum and in several areas of the capital," the group said.

"Security services continue to put down the protesters, firing real bullets," Ummah said, adding that six people

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had been killed and four seriously injured since the trouble began.

The Islamic Student Movement denounced the protests on Thursday and also blamed the communists, who it said had attacked an office of the university's Koranic society.

But it said the movement had "succeeded in stopping activities by communists in the university for a full day" on Wednesday.

The official death toll rose to three as the interior ministry said martial arts instructor Fayez Mohammad Ali was killed in inter-student clashes on Wednesday at the University of Khartoum.

The London-based Saudi daily ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT however said four had died since the start of the protests on Saturday. It said two students were shot and a third stabbed to death on Tuesday.

The Interior Ministry has only confirmed two deaths on Tuesday.

The paper also named Wednesday's fatality as Fayez Mohammad Ali but said he was a student and died in clashes with the police.

"Independent sources" told ASH-SHARQ AL-ASWAT that protests also broke out at Nilein University on Wednesday when police "surrounding the university fired ammunition and tear gas."

Witnesses also said Islamic students attacked demonstrators on the University of Khartoum campus, the paper reported.

The Foreign Ministry summoned the Ethiopian charge d'affaires to inform him "that Sudan holds Ethiopia and Eritrea responsible for the disturbances and for conspiring against Sudan's stability," ASH- SHARQ AL-AWSAT said.

Ethiopia has blamed Sudan for being behind a failed bid on Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's life in June in Addis Ababa. Khartoum denies any link to the attack.

University Chancellor Discusses Arrests, Incidents

EA1409204595 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 14 September (SUNA)—The chancellor of Khartoum University, Professor Hashim Muhammad al-Hadi, has announced that all the university students who were arrested during the recent incidents have been released, and that there are now no injured students from the university in the hospital.

In a statement to the SUNA, His Excellency said it had been calm at the university since yesterday morning. [Words indistinct] He said studies were continuing as normal in all university departments, following riots instigated by some of the university's students and their attempts to prevent their colleagues from entering lecture halls.

Professor Hashim said many of the university's students had refused to respond positively to this minority, a fact that enabled lecturers to continue with their lectures normally and for exams to (?end) in both the departments of medicine and law.

The only remaining exam to be completed is the (?oral) exam for medical students. Exams in the rest of the department will begin in mid-September to mid-October.

The chancellor of Khartoum University praised the conduct of the students who refused to join the chaos and attended their lectures. He condemned the students who attempted to prevent their colleagues from entering lecture halls, and who damaged the (?northern) side of one of the university's lecture halls.

Foreign Minister Receives Iraqi Envoy's Message

EA1409152095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha this morning received in his office a message from his brother, Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, which had been handed to His Excellency by 'Abd-al-Samad Hamid, Iraq's ambassador to Sudan. The message discusses bilateral relations.

During the meeting, the foreign minister confirmed Sudan's rejection of any interference in the affairs of others, particularly with regard to their regime or whoever takes charge of it, since this lies at the very heart of national sovereignty. He said nobody has the right to propose a method of government or put forward candidates to take charge in any country. Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha said: we reject the declared American strategy to remove the Iraqi regime and methods of guardianship over people.

President Comments on Relations With IMF

EA1509103395 Omdurman Sudan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The president of the Republic has affirmed Sudan's keenness to continue its relations with the International Monetary Fund. He said that despite the difficult circumstances, Sudan continues to

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implement an economic reform program which would be difficult for any other country to implement without foreign assistance.

He was speaking at Friendship Hall in Khartoum today when he met the head of the visiting IMF delegation. His Excellency said Sudan confirmed the progress of its economic policy which way for the Sudanese economy to open up. He pointed out that this policy was aimed at convincing donors to participate in funding future economic reform programs.

In a letter to the president of the Republic, delivered by the head of the visiting IMF delegation, the executive director of the IMF expressed appreciation for Sudan's cooperation and its commitment to economic incentives and reforms.

Tunisia

President Receives Saddam's 'Private' Envoy

LD1509082395 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At Carthage Palace yesterday afternoon, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir, Iraqi minister of finance and private envoy of President Saddam Husayn to his excellency the president.

Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir said he conveyed a message to the head of state from the Iraqi president in connection with the development of the state of affairs the Arab arena, stressing Tunisia's efforts to the people of Iraq to ease their suffering. [passage omitted]

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Kuwait

Commentary Discusses Decline of Iraq

95LH0253A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Aug 95 p 17

[Commentary by Muhammad al-Rumayhi, editor in chief of Kuwaiti newspaper AL-'ARABI]

[FBIS Translated Text] I do not approve of turning every August into a time for lamenting. We recall the tragedy when Iraq invaded Kuwait, heaping curses one minute and looking for a scapegoat the next. When instinct prevails over appearances, we find a number of published articles which recall the days of that black August as a whole Arab generation recalls the events of 1948 in Palestine—with a difference in the causes and effects.

Consciously and willfully, I do not want to get into the subject of the occupation and liberation of Kuwait or the outcome for the Arabs and the world here. That is a subject whose negative effects have become known to the world. I will devote my words here to a subject I believe some people have avoided discussing, specifically the internal situation in Iraq.

For at least 25 years, Iraq has ruled the jungle, and over time its rule has become more oppressive, with the circle closing and minds closing. People with consciences and righteous observers can no longer tolerate silence over what is occurring in this Arab country, not only because the people of Iraq are Arabs and Muslims, but simply because they are part of a humanity whose conscience refuses to keep these people suffering to this degree without any natural or environmental reason beyond human strength but because of the stand taken by a small group of people ruling it and dominating it, unrelated to the events happening in the world which are determined by peoples. So a discussion of what is transpiring there has become not only a collective duty but an individual duty; it will be an inevitable daily topic, instead of a seasonal one, until it is over.

I have listened to people say that "the Iraqis have been struggling under the yoke of oppressive rule for a long time—where were you then?"

This type of question—even assuming it is well-intentioned—does nothing but gloat. Things have reached the point where the United Nations—whose charter forbids it from interfering in internal affairs—has, for the first time in its history, intervened between a people and its ruler. That intervention in Iraq is proof of the terrible state of relations, if we too call it excessive.

In my estimation, there are at least four points through which we may understand what is occurring in Iraq today. They are not all the points, but they are the major ones, and through them we may get an idea of how events may evolve in the future.

The first point is the nature of decisionmaking in a "savage" state, in the words of one writer, and when you follow it historically, especially after the coming to power of the ruling Iraqi Ba'th in the late 1960s, we find this decision was made by one person or a small group of persons joined only by blood (family or tribal loyalty). Saddam Husayn was not the most qualified to be the first deputy of Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr; he was appointed to that position after a set of maneuvers, and the basis for the appointment was his tribal relationship with al-Bakr. When we read the memoirs of those who have been part of the Iraqi Government in that period and afterward, we see this confirmed. On another front, the major decisions in Iraq are usually made in the dark at midnight and usually made at the expense of the Iraqi people. The media mechanism, controlled by the party and the government, then justify those decisions. That happened, for example, in the 11 March 1970 accord between the ruling regime and the Kurds. Then the same thing happened again in the 6 March 1975 agreement between the Iraqi regime and the shah of Iran. In both cases, both accords were concluded and the ball returned anew. After that, when we closely examine the decision to make war between Iraq and Iran, we find that it may have broken out due to the struggle of internal forces in Baghdad, and we find that the declaration of war, like all decisions, was hasty, murky, and had ambiguous goals. The reason for the war, as was first announced, was to topple the new Iranian regime within weeks; we had best mention that the declaration of war was against the background of the Iraqi regime's having slipped out of an agreement with Syria and an internal coup against al-Bakr. Iraq, the Arabs, the Iranians, and the whole world paid the exorbitant price of that devastating war. Then, after that, the goal of the war changed: it was now to protect Iraq's eastern flank. Then there was no longer any purpose other than continuing the war to protect the regime itself.

So it was with the decision to occupy Kuwait. It was murky, obscure, changeable, and personal, too. After the summit conference in Baghdad from 28-30 May 1990, Saddam Husayn asked Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan to stay behind in Iraq for several days. Yet after less than three weeks he accused the Emirates and Kuwait of "treason" because of their part in lowering oil prices. The ink on the Baghdad conference documents was not even dry yet.

Also, on 2 July 1990, during Saddam Husayn's visit to the governorates of al-Muthanna and al-Qadisiyah, he accused the Gulf rulers of being responsible for the

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collapse of oil prices (though this information and these speeches were not broadcast until the end of that month, when events had come to a crisis).

To go back to the decisions and statements, the occupation of Kuwait was at first justified as being assistance to an internal coup; then came the proclamation of a republic; then Kuwait was annexed; then withdrawal from Kuwait was linked to Syria's withdrawal from Lebanon and Israel's from the occupied territories.

The phenomenon of Iraqi decisionmaking proceeds, personal and narrow, its beginnings verbal and exaggerated. This phenomenon is becoming a monotonous rhythm after the international intervention but in a different direction this time. It includes all the decisions to make concessions, both in terms of biological and chemical weapons, weapons of mass destruction, the no-fly zones in the north and south, and reactivating the military sectors. To these decisions, two new phenomena were added. First, they were not only made at midnight, but one hour later; that is, when it was too late. The second phenomenon is making concessions to enemies—limited to one person, Saddam Husayn—which the Iraqi president, with his peasant mentality, believes to be tactical, balanced by a directly contradictory phenomenon: refusing to concede the rights of the Iraqi people, even the rights to basic life.

This leads to the second point. At the same time that he is giving concessions to enemies, he grows more stubborn in making no concessions to the demands of the people. Perhaps the greater phenomenon here is that the Iraqi regime has become accustomed to "fleeing" from concessions by creating a problem abroad. The fall of al-Bakr and Saddam Husayn's assumption of power happened over the corpses of party comrades and the "corpse" of Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation. In order for this justification to be acceptable, a state of war with Iran had to be created. The end of the battles on the Iraqi-Iranian front coincided with the passing of the socialist camp. There were many demands in Iraq for pluralism, as had been discussed in the media since 1989, and the Iraqi media at the time spoke of a plan for a permanent constitution to be put to a referendum at the end of 1990. There were discussions on Iraqi television, where the intent of the speakers was to establish—firmly—that what was happening in eastern Europe could not happen in Iraq. The speakers found in the list of differences between the Iraqi experience and the experience in eastern Europe that there were "uniqueness and singularity" in the experience of the Iraqi Ba'th Party. All that was just to prove that what happened there could not repeat itself in Baghdad. One of the symptoms of that era was the publication of discussions of the Revolutionary Command Council on the degree to which censorship of publications and periodicals ought to be lifted. Some of these minutes were published in the Paris magazine AL-YAWM AL-SABI' [THE SEVENTH DAY], and the discussion might have gone on, but the fear of losing power or having to give some of it up had hastened the creation of foreign justifications, mostly ridiculous ones, and once again instinct prevailed over appearances, for contemporary Iraqi Ba'thist political thought since Michel 'Aflaq, through Ilyas Farah, and concluding with the practices of Saddam Husayn, built itself up in line with the conviction that settling a conflict must involve violence, with no place for dialogue or squabbling over ideas. The leader himself has a monopoly on the truth. This is exactly the thinking Honecker had in East Germany, Ceaucescu had in Romania, and other devotees of totalitarian thought had.

So it was inevitable he would flee in fear from liberalization and popular participation, flee to a new, bigger, larger conflict to put a stop to the aspirations of the Iraqi people of all backgrounds for democracy, pluralism, participation, and human rights. The regime went and occupied Kuwait and created a focus to attract attention, to popularize inconsistent slogans such as "Liberate Palestine," or writing the name of Almighty God on the Iraqi flag.

Here we may glance at the third point. The war, what accompanied it, and what followed it added to Saddam Husayn's regime's domination in the instruments of repression and those of opinion (the media) a third and crucial despotism: over food and medicine for the Iraqi masses. These are things no longer obtained by anyone but those close to Saddam. With time, the political aspirations of the Iraqis have waned, under the weight of the internal and external embargo, under the calamities of hunger, want, and the search for a way to stay alive and heal one's children. Democratic rights and demands for pluralism, even the most basic human rights, have evaporated. Iraqis have become preoccupied with meeting basic, simple human needs—with merely staying alive.

Today it is no longer surprising for a visitor to see, in the cities of Iraq—and much has been published about this—two signs in the streets, before conditions deteriorated, university professors, teachers, executives, and doctors, even former officers, selling what is left of their household goods to provide their families and children with food and clothing. They sell all their last books, watches, bedspreads, and paintings, with their memories, which are replaced by painful memories.

Here we come to the fourth and final point. In an atmosphere such as this, how can there be talk of

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"progress" or "honor" or "unity"? The last word is a big lie adopted by the Iraqi regime, for at the same time it is unable to create true unity among the factions and sects of the Iraqi people, how can it forge unity with others, when it itself fled from this national unity in coordination with countries that border it, or at other times are some distance away, throughout its political history, and which it has worked to dismember internally by dismembering feelings of community and institutions?

Another lie now exposed is the technical progress at the same time Iraqi law forbids the use of typewriters, computers, and facsimile machines. Perhaps one of the remarkable phenomena is that despite all the plunder in Kuwait during occupation, no one stole a typewriter, copier, or facsimile machine because whoever was caught with one of these was executed, without exception.

In an atmosphere such as that, it was inevitable that theft would become widespread and public morals would retreat, with the law of the jungle taking over. The Iraqis were transformed into willing tools, hearing nothing but the regime's propaganda, its pretexts, and its meaningless clamor. In the last five years, Iraq has gone backward, further back than the times before the years of the ruling Ba'th government. Primitive feelings have overcome civilized feelings, so that the phenomenon of cutting off ears and mutilating noses has become assimilated into this atmosphere, just as extra-legal mass murder is common and accepted. The Iraqi regime stumbles around, now right, now left, until stumbling has become the regime's fixed trademark.

These four points do not only explain some of what is occurring in Iraq today; they explain all of it, as well as why there is a general and periodic amnesty and the execution of those who believe these promises.

From all of this we see the real reasons Saddam Husayn refused to barter oil for the food and medicine offered by the United Nations, while he claimed other false pretexts, such as safeguarding the sovereignty of Iraq, yet at the same time he made daily concessions affecting that sovereignty. The reasons were the delay in the Iraqi people's entitlements to pluralism, democracy, and the rule of institutions. If the people of Iraq wanted just one of the Security Council's resolutions to be implemented, it would undoubtedly be the resolution on human rights in Iraq.

The question, as I said in the beginning, is not turning August into a temporary period for lamenting. The question is: what is the future of Iraq?

In my unshakable view, given the objective data, a regime such as Saddam Husayn's cannot survive long. In the past five years it has used up all its luck. Today it is living on borrowed time, but the more important question is, will the Iraqis be capable of building a pluralistic society (as Iraq actually is) given the long years of denying and oppressing "the other"? Will the Iraqis be able to read the true map of the Iraqi people, a map teeming with pluralism and crushed under coerced unity, no matter how the ideology of this unity differs? Will this disparate factions be able to coexist after having oppressed one another for long years? After all this, can the Iraq of the future look inside itself and solve its domestic problems instead of fleeing from domestic solutions to create problems with its neighbors? These are questions only the Iraqis themselves can answer. As to toppling the present regime, I do not know when or how that will happen, but all evidence indicates that its flight from facing its fate has already begun.

Saudi Arabia

Pakistani President Arrives on Minor Pilgrimage

LD1509101695 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0910 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 14 Sep (SPA) — His Excellency Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Jeddah this morning to perform the minor pilgrimage and pay homage to the Prophet's Mosque. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Salih: President's Medical Examinations 'Positive'

JN1409182095 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, has thanked all the sons of the homeland and their political forces, for inquiring about the results of the president's medical examinations.

In a telephone call with Sanaa radio today, he said that the results of examinations are positive and reassuring, and that, praise be to God, he left the hospital yesterday and will return to the homeland soon.

The president also expressed great appreciation for the Arab leaders, kings, presidents, and princes; international figures; and heads of organizations for inquiring about his health through contacts and visits, and for their sincere feelings.

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The president of the republic said that meetings and contacts were held with a number of U.S. officials and investors.

Salih Receives Message From Kuwaiti Amir

JN1409174595 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brother Lieutenant General President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih yesterday received at his place of residence in the United States brother Shaykh Dr. Muhammad Sabah al-Salim al- Sabah, ambassador of the fraternal State of Kuwait to the United States. The Kuwaiti ambassador delivered a message from his brother Kuwaiti Amir His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah greeting the brother president and enquiring about his health and the results of the medical checkup he underwent. The Kuwaiti amir wished the brother president continued good health and our Yemeni people progress and prosperity. [passage omitted]

Talks during the meeting dealt with the close relations between the two fraternal countries and issues of interest to the Yemeni and Kuwaiti people.

The brother president expressed his thanks and great appreciation for his brother Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait; Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, his heir apparent; and Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, for their fraternal and sincere sentiments. He said that Yemeni- Kuwaiti relations are close, unique, and fraternal. He stressed our country's eagerness to promote these relations to reflect the two fraternal peoples' aspirations and serve their common objectives. [passage omitted]

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Ekeus Cited on Armament Program, Husayn Kamil

NC1409200995 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Commission in charge of eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass-destruction, has reaffirmed that Iraq has lost much of its credibility after misleading the Security Council members in the past.

In an exclusive interview with MBC's New York correspondent Rula Amin, he said Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil has political ambitions and that the information he provided did not contradict the Iraqi Government's.

Ekeus gave a preliminary analysis of the half million papers which the commission recently received from the Iraqi Government after Husayn Kamil's defection to Jordan. He said that from the strictly technical sense we made great steps forward. But politically, he added, there have been negative complications.

He noted that Iraq has lost much credibility after this information revealed that it misled the council members in the past. He said: As a result of Iraq's loss of credibility with the council members, we are now being asked to be more stringent, especially by neighboring countries. These countries are asking us to be more scrupulous and to provide unequivocal evidence, not general evaluations of the previous and future Iraqi armament programs.

Ekeus attributes the revelation of new information in this regard to the commission. Even though the big volume of the documents does not allow a final assessment, he considers these documents as incomplete. He says: These documents are still incomplete and still lacking evidence and verifications, especially with regard to the destruction of Iraq's biological material that have serious destructive capabilities.

As for Husayn Kamil and his cooperation with the commission, Ekeus said Kamil is reserved and cautious in giving any sensitive information concerning Iraq's security. He added: Obviously he has political ambitions but I explained to him that the programs we are discussing were illegal in the first place. The information he provided did not contradict or differ much from the Iraqi Government's information. There are some additions but these did not dramatically change the general picture. We have begun a dialogue with him and will pursue it because we have not finished yet.

Ekeus refrains from criticizing the Iraqi Government. Rather in an apparent enthusiastic tone, he emphasizes that there is a change in the leadership.

As regards the effect of the information on the commission's work, he said the new documents provided more answers than questions. He added: My reaction is positive. More documents always means more speed.

Editorial on Ekeus' Biological Weapons Report

95LH0225A Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 9 Jul 95 pp 1, 3

[Editorial by Salah al-Mukhtar: "With Biological File Closed, Who Will Step Forth Among Western Ranks To Extinguish Fuse of Biggest Mine in History"]

[FBIS Translated Text] With Rolfe Ekeus submitting his new report and acknowledging that Iraq has disclosed the required information on germ cultures, the Security Council, especially its permanent members, is confronted with a new and unprecedented condition since the blockade was imposed on Iraq. This condition is the start of a new phase for the various countries to deal with Iraq clearly and without ambiguity or vagueness after years of such deception, camouflage, allegation, and card-shuffling that have allowed the blockade to go on for five years under the umbrella of the United Nations and of "international legitimacy."

The moment of decision has now come. It is a moment when countries should make their words agree with their deeds. Numerous countries have become accustomed to making statements which have been difficult to test and in which it has been hard to distinguish what is false and misleading from what is true. Thus, the political objectives of the United States and of other parties—objectives drawn up for the successful colonization of Iraq—have been concealed carefully and successfully.

Until the end of 1993, everybody was saying that Iraq had to implement the Security Council resolutions in order for the blockade to be lifted. Within the framework of this demand, there has been agreement between those who are hostile to Iraq and who harbor goals that have nothing to do with the Kuwait issue, such as the United States, and those who are not hostile and who believe that the Kuwait issue must be resolved by applying the Security Council resolutions, such as Russia and China. A third party standing in between the two consists of those who had a history of colonialist struggle with the Arabs but who established positive cooperation with Iraq in the 1970s. However, this cooperation has not eliminated their reluctance and has not stopped them from extending their hand to the U.S. imperialism or from reverting to the old imperialist sentiments they had harbored for the Arabs. With the impact of the intervention of these "sentiments" and interests, we have seen this third party act more tensely and sharply than

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the Americans in dealing with Iraq and the Iraqi people during this the crisis.

Thousands of statements and promises have been made. Some people believe that statements are loose and of no value because developments will not put them to the test. They believe, consequently, that those who issue statements make gains with mere words, or perhaps they believe that "Iraq is about to collapse" and, therefore, there is no need to go beyond words and promises!

The five years constituting the harshest period in Iraq's glorious history, even in the history of mankind, have lapsed. In these five years, Iraq has made several major accomplishments that have changed regional and international history, of which the most remarkable is Iraq's amazing success in what all international observers and experts have considered impossible, namely rebuilding and reconstructing with purely Iraqi capabilities and under the umbrella of the all-out blockade. This accomplishment shows that the Iraqi people have the ability to survive under extremely complex and harsh circumstances.

Survival has been the twin of steadfastness. If it were not for the general popular steadfastness, there would be no survival. Steadfastness is the number one and the most remarkable Iraqi miracle. By coupling steadfastness with development and construction, Iraq's leadership has been able to tackle the Security Council resolutions with the spirit of someone who wants to protect Iraq's people from harm and to put an end to their hardship, even if numerous major accomplishments have to be sacrificed and viewed as a sacrificial lamb for the Iraqi people's future, security, and prosperity.

The parties that launched the aggression, whether those who were fundamentally hostile because of motives or those who were swayed by the slogans of "international legitimacy," were fully confident of Iraq's inability to stand fast and survive. Consequently, they did not expect that there would be a day when they would have to transform words and promises to deeds—a day when Iraq would eliminate the legal basis for continuation of the blockade by implementing the Security Council resolutions, especially the resolution connected with lifting the blockade. We mean Resolution 687, which states in Paragraph C that the only condition for lifting the economic blockade is to destroy the mass destruction weapons.

This is why many people issued positive statements in the initial years (1990-93) stating that Iraq's implementation of Resolution 687 is sure to lift the economic blockade. Some parties, especially the United States, thought that Iraq would not implement these resolutions because there would be no Iraq; because the country would be swept away by chaos and retrogression; or because Iraq would not be able to implement them practically. Therefore, it would not be necessary to measure words against deeds.

But Iraq has stood fast and rebuilt. It has survived five years during which it has succeeded in implementing the main prerequisites for lifting the economic blockade. Thus, all parties have found themselves faced with the responsibility of moving from words to deeds. The frock that had wrapped all countries within its folds has been torn apart now and it has become evident that the majority of these countries want Iraq to implement the Security Council resolutions so the blockade will be lifted. Meanwhile, the minority has had a political objective that has no connection with the Kuwait issue, namely to colonize Iraq and seize its oil and its resources.

During a major process which has been going on for a year now, we have seen the United States declare officially that even if Iraq implements all Security Council resolutions, the blockade will not be lifted! Meanwhile, other countries have declared that Iraq has to implement the requirements of Paragraph C of Resolution 687 so the blockade will be lifted. This is why the world public, including the Iraqi public, has believed that all that remains for the economic blockade to be lifted is to provide the information on germ cultures and that when this information is supplied, a Russian-French draft resolution, supported by China, would be submitted to lift the economic blockade!

This is how the world public has understood the positions of France, Russia, and China. This is why eyes turned to Paris, Moscow, and Beijing when Iraq handed the "last information." These capitals had insisted that Iraq hand over this information so it would "help them" submit a draft resolution to lift the blockade. Iraq has offered everything it has and the dearest thing that it possesses. It has facilitated the task of those who offered sweet and rosy words. Now, the ball is bouncing all over these parties' court and making everybody nervous!

Yes, in these days and in the coming weeks and months, we will see the ball in the Russian, French, and Chinese court primarily, and in the courts of other non-permanent Security Council members. This fact dictates that these countries hasten to take "whatever is necessary" to fulfill the promises and to implement the sweet words. Iraq has responded to "their plea," and has supplied the missing information. Despite this, the United States says, with the insolence of a deep-rooted criminal who has become a professional shedder of people's blood: The information Iraq has supplied

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increases our suspicions and makes it unlikely that the blockade will be lifted imminently.

We have now before us a painting with hot and cold colors: The U.S. position constitutes a challenge to France, Russia, and China, who have declared that what Iraq must do in order to lift the blockade is to close the biological file. Iraq has submitted what is required to close this file. Thus, it has become necessary that the Russian-French draft resolution be submitted.

The decisive question asked in the region and the world currently is: Now that the moment to test France's, Russia's, and China's words has come, who will pass and who will fail? It is essential to ask this question now because the United States is exerting major efforts to prevent the other countries from embarking on a major step in connection with the blockade issue. This means that France, Russia, and China are facing the problem of keeping their promise and their word and of giving precedence to their national interests. Failure to keep them will entrench the idea of the subjugation of major powers to the United States because these powers lack an independent political will and are fond of the game of words. As soon as the words reach the testing stage, however, they get reshuffled and their meanings alter, and the reader is required to discover what is hidden behind them!

By submitting the last information that was required of it, Iraq has provided the Security Council with the opportunity to decide. Any position that leans on secondary issues and leads to continuation of the blockade can only be interpreted at the Iraqi, Arab, and Islamic level as an affirmation of an existing hypothesis which says that the other parties are nothing but satellites of the United States and that they play, on agreement with the United States, a role different from that of the United States so as to reassure the victim while continuing to prepare to devour it.

Others must understand well that the party which will lose as a result of reluctance and vacillation will not be Iraq because Iraq is, to start, the victim of the criminal position and policies of the major powers. The only losers will be those who, like sheep, went along with the aggression against Iraq and supported imposing a criminal blockade against it while uttering words disavowing these crimes! Iraq has adapted to the blockade conditions and it will only suffer a loss whose consequences it can endure, but the major powers who sell words and revolve in the vicious circle of words will slide to levels below the level of subservience to the United States. They will find themselves mere rooks in crushing wars causing boundless harm. They will also find that they have lost the United States, as they had lost others.

Those who have to speak their decisive word now must remember that Iraq has numerous options to break the yoke of the blockade and that these options formed and ripened during years of fighting the barbarism of the colonialist west. Some of Iraq's options will, if adopted as a result of the despairing Security Council option, be tantamount to firing the mercy bullet at the bodies of the vacillating and of those who put one foot on Iraq's side and the other on the side of the enemies of mankind among the Americans.

The Arab homeland, and not just Iraq, is boiling these days. A general conviction has prevailed, and it is to the effect that unless somebody comes forth from among the western imperialist ranks to fly the banner of understanding and dialogue with the Arabs and the Muslims, then Arabs and Muslims will choose another path and another course to deal with the plan to annihilate millions of them in the worst "crusade" witnessed by history. It will be a war that will be more costly to the colonialist West than all past crusades!

Ekeus' admission that Iraq has supplied the last information required of it has prepared the biological file to be closed. Unless Western and Eastern parties cooperate to close it, nobody will be able to speculate on the direction of developments in the Arab homeland and the Islamic world or about the reactions of Arabs and Muslims to the racist annihilation crimes committed against them by the neo-crusaders.

Again, we say: The ball is in France's, Russia's, and China's court. A good player is an intelligent player who remembers his previous move when he wants to decide his next one.

Changing Political Regime No 'Piece of Cake'

JN1509062495 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 11 Sep 95 p 8

[Article by Sabir Muhsin al-Duri: "A Big Mistake"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The enemies of Iraq—especially the Americans—are making a big mistake when they issue statements expressing hopes of changing the political regime in Iraq. They imagine that such a thing is a piece of cake, forgetting that although they have tried many times to achieve this objective, they failed and were disappointed.

Their criminal 30-state aggression against our dear country was aimed at achieving this objective. Despite all that happened, Iraq, its unique leader, great people, and genuine revolutionary regime continued on the same

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path that was mapped out by the party, disregarding all these sayings, falsehood, and fabrications.

The Americans and the enemies of Iraq think that changing the regime is an easy job. Furthermore, they made others believe that it is an uncomplicated issue and that it can be done the way they want it, anytime they want. However, the matter is contrary to this, as confirmed by the real situation and events. The political system in Iraq is the system of all people, without exception. The people themselves have accepted this system for themselves after believing in it and testing it. The people found out that this regime serves their interests, objectives, and aspirations because it is the regime that took them out of the darkness into light, and from starvation and poverty to prosperity. The political system in Iraq is not as they imagine, or as the traitors and agents describe it to them — a regime of a certain faction, group, or person. It is the regime of the entire people. The Ba'th Party is not for Ba'thists only; it is the party of the whole people. Now, in every Iraqi house there is one Ba'thist or more who has a deep, strong, and firm faith in the party, its objectives, and its wise, revolutionary leadership. They, together with their families, link their fate with the fate of the party, the revolution, and the leader. They defend their party until martyrdom. And this is what they did in the Mother of Battles, and this is what they are doing now. It is very difficult to change this regime as the enemies imagine, because it has become the regime of all Iraqis. Any aggression against Iraq and any attempt against its regime will prompt all Iraqis — Ba'thists and non-Ba'thists — to stand bravely to defend their regime in which they believe and for which they offered many sacrifices. Then, the failing ones will face defeat—something they have known and experienced more than once.

No matter what, the glorious Iraqis will not agree to be ruled by a cowardly traitor who threw himself into the bosom of foreigners and put out his hand for their dollars. They made their choice when they found in the great leader Saddam Husayn what they had always dreamed of.

The political regime in Iraq is unlike the other regimes which are known by the Americans and the rancorous ones. When the Iraqis joined the party they did so willingly, not by force or under coercion. And when they chose Saddam Husayn as their leader they did so based on complete conviction and absolute faith. The party and the leader are not imposed on the Iraqi people, as fabricated by the enemies and rancorous ones who are trying to obliterate facts about Iraq. Throughout the militant march of the party and leader which has gone on for more than 25 years, in which splendid and great gains and achievements were made, the people have tested and witnessed the sincerity and integrity of their party and leadership. Thus, they gave them their love and loyalty and offered up precious sacrifices for the sake of principles. So, how can the enemies and rancorous ones change the political regime if the people, all the people, have this faithful, jihad, militant spirit?

The very few individuals who betrayed the principles, escaped outside the borders, and accepted humiliation and disgrace in the bosom of foreigners can do nothing, no matter how shrill their voices are. The march will continue, with God's help and with the determination of the leader and people. If America and all traitors, enemies, and rancorous ones attempt to interfere in Iraq's affairs or embark on aggression against it, they will find that all their mean attempts are doomed to failure and will be nipped in the bud. They will also find that all their attempts are merely a mirage which they will continue to run after until they die of thirst.

As Satan will never go to heaven, the dreams of the Americans about Iraq will never materialize. The land, sky, and water of Iraq are for nationalist Iraqis. Only the real zealous, faithful, and nationalist Iraqis will drink the water of Tigris, Euphrates, Saddam, and al-Qadisiyah. Only the honest sons of the homeland and nation will enjoy Iraq's good things. All the arrows of the rancorous and covetous ones will be broken on Iraq's borders.

Peace on the leader and people of Iraq;
Peace on its great revolutionary regime;
Shame on all coveters and rancorous ones who will never achieve what they want;
Long live the leader of great Iraq;
Long live the faithful party of the nation;
Long live the glorious people;
Allahu Akbar [God is great].

Referendum Said 'Decisive Reply' to 'Enemies'

JN1409183795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 14 Sep (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH stresses that the referendum is a decisive Iraqi reply to all those who encroach on Iraq's experience and cast doubts on its march. It is also a major advanced step on the path of crossing to the shores of safety to repulse the schemes of the enemies and defeat their evil conspiracies.

In an article published today under the headline "Decisive Reply," the paper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: The issue of the referendum and the choice of the president of the republic has never been a pressing problem or question for the Iraqis.

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However, at the current phase of the journey, the referendum is a decisive message, addressed primarily to the world, not us.

The paper adds: As far as our people are concerned, the referendum means the continuation and completion of previous steps and moving from one phase to another more developed and healthier phase. It is a correct and sound progressive move to fight the obstructive and distracting acts and to spread a climate of democracy and establish its clear constitutional bases.

The paper stresses that the referendum is an unparalleled move, considering that Iraq is besieged, threatened, and surrounded by ugly, evil hostile schemes, yet, it is not living in a state of emergency and is not governed by any martial or emergency laws.

The paper notes President Saddam Husayn's great, principled keenness to encourage people to wrest their rights and fight injustice and those who work in the dark, regardless of where they may be, by spreading a climate of democracy, taking care of it, and applying it in every aspect of life.

The paper says: As far as our people are concerned, President Saddam Husayn has been and will remain a ray of hope and the safety valve for the militant traditions, which he embodied through his sincere principled interaction with the people, until he has become a symbol for Iraq' unity and the guarantor of its unending triumph.

Ba'th Party Elections Praised as Democratic

95LH0229A Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 12 Jul 95 pp 1, 3

[Editorial by Salah al-Mukhtar: "In Light of Party Elections: Our Democracy and Their Dictatorship"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Socialist Arab Ba'th Party ordinary elections, held once every four years to elect a new leadership that has the trust and support of the various party bases and leaders, have concluded in a democratic climate rarely matched in the world, especially in the imperialist west where the only ones who win are the wealthy or those who hand the keys to their conscience to the wealthy. The conferees have elected the comrade secretary of the Iraqi Regional Command unanimously and with a pure democratic spirit. The comrade secretary has recorded a new feat in the history of party democracy by declining a proposal adopted unanimously by the congress to elect him secretary for life.

Comrade Leader Saddam Husayn has underlined a fundamental fact, namely the need to adhere to the party's constitution and to work accordingly when electing the country's secretary because such adherence is a fundamental guarantee of democracy and because it entrenches democracy's traditions and provides the final word. If the comrade regional secretary refuses, when already elected, to adopt a special resolution beyond what is dictated by the party constitution, then it is impossible that the principles and traditions of deep-rooted party democracy will be violated in any other cases. These principles and traditions have been strengthened and they have prospered in Iraq by virtue of the deep-rooted democratic spirit of President Saddam Husayn, the revolution's leader and the people's leader.

Comrade Leader Saddam Husayn's stance is another lesson to us. It adds to and enriches the concept of democracy in an age when democracy is violated everywhere by the international dictatorship of the United States which has begun to violate the principle of the sovereignty and independence of states. It has also begun to impose on other countries formulas and policies rejected by the peoples of these countries. Moreover, the comrade secretary's refusal to be elected for life foils the pretexts that say that special circumstances make it permissible to violate the constitution, law, and principles and to establish emergency laws and undemocratic formulas.

Nobody in the world can deny a most remarkable fact of our modern age, namely that the challenges Iraq has been facing since 1990 are deadly challenges whose danger cannot be exceeded. The 30-state aggression, the stiffened blockade, use of the blockade as an instrument for the mass annihilation of the population, and the attempt to use this blockade to shatter national unity are challenges which no other people have ever encountered previously in history. Even a superpower such as the United States would collapse in weeks if it were subjected to such challenges. Laws would disappear, the Constitution would be abolished, anarchy would prevail, and the rule of local mafias would emerge.

Despite the serious nature of the challenges which face Iraq—challenges that any pragmatic politician would have exploited to impose an absolute dictatorship, resting fully assured of the strength of his argument and of its ability to defeat the advocates of adherence to the constitution and the laws—the temptation of the "special circumstances" has not had its effect and the leader has been determined to adhere to the Constitution and the law.

If we seek to interpret this stance, then two facts emerge before us: The first is that the comrade secretary and the builder and leader of modern Iraq believes firmly that the public law and order must be respected in the party and in society if we aspire to strengthen

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the country's democratic traditions and to turn them into a model emulated in the region and the world. They must be respected if we aspire to eliminate and prohibit the spontaneous alternative, i.e. the anarchy of individuals and their pragmatic fluctuations which are always exploited to impose various kinds of individual or collective, camouflaged or open dictatorships.

Whoever has read or heard Leader Saddam Husayn's speeches on various occasions about law and order and about the need not to violate them understands well that this adherence is a fundamental layer in the triumphant rational approach the Iraqi revolution has adopted from the time it was incepted to the present.

The second fact is early awareness of the nature of the U.S. schemes against Iraq. It is fully evident that the United States does not want democracy to flourish and be strengthened in Iraq as long as the ultimate U.S. goal is to colonize the country. Iraq is not any other country. Iraq is uniquely independent and it is difficult to understand for the enemies. Everybody is aware of Iraq's history under lackey rulers and of how those rulers failed to defeat or ignore the will for independence and freedom. Thus, they were compelled, by one degree or another and in one way or another, to submit at times to the Iraqi people's will and to keep a certain distance between themselves and colonialism in connection with specific issues, such as Kuwait.

Therefore, no matter how well lackeys implement colonialism's will, they will continue to be unable to overstep some taboos, foremost of which is Iraq's regional unity. The United States considers this unity an obstacle that prevents it from attaining its phased goal, namely to divide Iraq into three or five mini-states fighting each other so this condition will pave the way for colonizing Iraq in its entirety and for seizing its oil and other resources.

Based on this, the United States is opposed to democracy in Iraq, even if it were in control of the situation, because democracy in all its forms presumes the presence of stability, security, and the rules of an election system, even if forgery is possible under this system. These prerequisites preclude anarchy and exclude Iraq's division.

The above facts fully explain the "secret" behind the U.S. determination to maintain anarchy and the rule of the mafias and of criminals in northern Iraq, even though the United States can end the war of the mafias and establish security and rule of the law there with a single decision or a single word. The United States wants all of Iraq to become worse than northern Iraq and to turn into armed mafias fighting each other for no long-term objective other than perpetuation of the civil war. There is no more effective way to achieve all this than to destroy public law and order and to violate taboos.

Therefore, the emphasis that the party and people's leader has put on the need to respect law and order, even under special and very serious circumstances, is a well studied response to the U.S. partition-minded scheme. It is a response that emanates from extreme eagerness to respect the law and order because this respect is a guarantee of stability for people and society and because it prevents the rise of anarchy.

Thus, Leader President Saddam Husayn's stance is tantamount to a weighty political accomplishment never achieved previously in any other country. This is the stance to preserve democracy even under war conditions posing a fateful challenge to Iraq's unity. Western and eastern European countries, the United States, and Japan suspended their constitutions and their laws and declared emergency laws during World War II on the pretext of war conditions even though some of them, such as the United States, were not subjected to any security threat because of geographic isolation and their deterrent power.

The Iraqi democratic approach becomes even more valuable when we take into consideration two tendencies that the world has clearly noticed: The first is the crystallization and reinforcement of the dictatorial course the United States has taken in the world. This course is embodied in the U.S. abolition of the concept of sovereignty and its replacement by the concept of the right of intervention in other countries' domestic affairs in the name of democracy, human, rights, and the market economy. The United States has declared these tendencies officially and the UN secretary general has followed them. Fundamentally, they are criminal dictatorial tendencies engaged in boundless violations against peoples' rights to self-determination, honorable life, sovereignty, and other rights.

The United States is practicing nowadays the policy of imposing political regimes on people with military force. It is also starving other people and subjecting them to civil wars or to wars with their neighbors so as to force them to accept the U.S. conditions for establishing the "market economy" or the IMF conditions, which are based on destruction of the mainstays of the public and socialist sectors and on predominance of the market economy, i.e. the economy of looting and of exploiting people.

The second is the tendency to bolster the role of a suppressive government in the United States and to return to the McCarthyist era, perhaps even worse, by issuing new laws that curb the citizen's liberties and that muzzle and persecute citizens by eavesdropping

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on them illegally and by employing arbitrary detention and repression measures on the pretext of preserving security and stopping terrorism!

The repressive U.S. Government has not been content with the methods of mass suppression through mass brainwashing methods and through control of the media and of cultural and psychological research centers. It resorts these days to the direct and violent suppression of its people now that the scheme to control the population completely has, to a certain degree, failed.

If approached in light of this information and observations, the latest party elections confirm a fundamental fact, namely that Iraq is led by a struggling vanguard who have deep faith in democracy and who have established sound foundations for the growth of democracy and the stability of its institutions, while the international U.S. dictatorship's aggressive criminal policies against people impede the creation of complete democratic systems in the world and encourage the growth of terrorism, dictatorship, and violation of man's basic and political rights in the various countries, especially countries that do not have a genuine struggling political vanguard like the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party. This party's popular struggle and structure and its leadership pattern have enabled it to overcome challenges of the international U.S. dictatorship, to contain the consequences of these challenges, and to carry on with the democratic approach at home and with the independence-minded pan-Arabist approach abroad.

A greeting to the revolution leader who has built the modern state of Iraq and has established its foundations and traditions, foremost of which are the democratic traditions.

A greeting to the world's only party that has stood fast, that has not succumbed to the storms of the international dictatorship, and that has maintained its course, its purity, and its principles.

A thousand congratulations to the comrades who have been reelected and to those strugglers who have been elected as new members of Iraq's [Ba'th Party] Regional Command.

Refugee Kurds Hold UN Officers as 'Shields'

AU1409115395 Paris AFP in English 1132 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Copenhagen, Sept 14 (AFP) — Seven UN security officers were being held by separatist Kurds in a northern Iraqi refugee camp as human shields in fighting between rival Kurdish groups, the regional UN security chief said Thursday [14 September].

Allan Hjoert told the Danish news agency RITZAU a total of 12 UN policemen, including a Dane Frank Torsteinsson, had been prevented from leaving the camp near Atruch by members of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) who are opposed to the Turkish authorities.

Five of the 12, who were captured Tuesday, were set free Wednesday.

According to Hjoert the camp, which houses Kurdish refugees from Turkey, is under siege by the rival Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) and the UN personnel were being held hostage in a bid to prevent further KDP attacks.

Hjoert said all the hostages were being treated well and negotiations were underway to bring about their release.

The UN security officers are policemen deployed in northern Iraq to ensure safe conditions for humanitarian aid to the Kurdish population.

Would-Be Assassin of Kurdish Prime Minister Arrested

NC1409161795 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Public Security Directorate in the region of Kurdistan has announced that it has arrested the perpetrator of the criminal attack on Kusrat Rasul 'Ali, prime minister of the region of Kurdistan, on Thursday, 7 September. The arrest followed intensive police investigations into the incident.

The Public Security Directorate issued the following statement:

From the Public Security Directorate in Kurdistan to the Kurdistani masses and the people of Irbil.

We find it necessary to inform you that the sinful hand that tried to assassinate Kusrat Rasul 'Ali, prime minister of the region of Kurdistan and member of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan's Political Bureau, on 7 September, has been apprehended by police and public security personnel. The criminal has made a detailed confession of his crime.

We will announce the results of the interrogation later on.

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Development Projects Outlined, Described

95LH0243A Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 19 Jul 95 pp 16-21

[Article by Hind Rashid and Maysam Sa'di: "ALIF BA' Dossier on Great Revolution Anniversary: Sixty Four Major Projects Completed in 27th Year"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Since 1968, the revolution has been submerging us in its love, affection, and great accomplishments. In its 27th year, the revolution's gifts have not decreased, despite the extraordinary circumstances it is experiencing. Inversely, through a survey of the number of projects and accomplishments made by the revolution in its 27th year, we have discovered that this year has been the brightest in connection with great accomplishments.

While reviewing these accomplishments proudly, ALIF BA' greets the creative people who have devoted themselves to Iraq's progress and to the love of Saddam Husayn, the great leader, may God protect him. They have expressed their true patriotism with immense, ceaseless, and tireless work around the clock, supported by constant and creative follow-up by Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, the minister in charge of the Military Industrialization Authority and the minister of industry and minerals.

Following is a list of the projects accomplished in the 27th year of the revolution, from July 1994 to July 1995:

1. Reconstruction of Conferences Palace (18 August 1994)
2. Wooden boards plant (11 October 1994)
3. Project to develop hand-woven rugs (20 October 1994)
4. Plant for production of thermal exchangers (22 October 1994)
5. Baked cinder project (23 October 1994)
6. Project for irrigation of area between the Tigris and the Euphrates (26 October 1994)
7. Hydraulics plant (30 October 1994)
8. Production of anti-freeze for cooling systems (5 November 1994)
9. Precision foundry project (8 November 1994)
10. Completion of surface treatment workshop and industrial water treatment plant (6 November 1994)
11. Revival [cleanup] of al-Rassas River (9 November 1994)
12. Al-Karamah Bridge (14 December 1994)
13. Al-Jihad irrigation project (19 January 1995)
14. Siphon canal project (20 January 1995)
15. Project for al-Nasr and Al Hatim streams (1 February 1995)
16. Construction of the Greater Saddam Mosque (26 February 1995)
17. Construction of Martyr Adnan Khayrallah Mosque (27 February 1995)
18. Saddam Tower (12 March 1994)
19. Restoration of 14 July Suspension Bridge (19 March 1995)
20. Project to link al-Ishaqi drain
21. Construction of rock wool plant (16 April 1995)
22. Project for irrigation of al-Dulu'iyah lands (18 April 1995)
23. Furniture production plant (24 April 1995)
24. Project to link oil stores (26 April 1995)
25. Sanitary fixtures plant (29 April 1995)

Completion of First Phase of the Greater Iraqi Factory

26. Mechanical operation plant
27. Welding plant
28. Foundry project
29. Pressing and cutting machinery plant
30. Aluminum foundry project
31. Plastics plant
32. Surface treatment plant
33. Project for the production of xylenes and solvents

Construction of Seven Specialized Production Plants (2 May 1995)

34. Phenol production plant
35. Aniline production plant
36. Plant for production of seed-dusting pesticide
37. Plant for production of potato-weed pesticide
38. Plant for production of corn-stem bore pesticide
39. Enlargement of ferric chlorides plant
40. Plant for the production of benzyl chloride and benzene alcohol
41. Precision aluminum foundry (16 May 1995)

Production Systems Project (27 May 1995)

42. Metal oxides production system
43. Copper benzoate production system
44. Calcium stellite production system
45. Salicylic powder production system
46. Phosphate salts purification system
47. Silicon emulsifiers production system
48. Ionic exchangers separation and boosting system
49. Nitrogen liquefaction system
50. Oxazine production system
51. Copper cable production plant (31 May 1995)

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Construction of Number of Projects Specialized in Electronic Products

52. Iraqi plant for production of colored television sets
53. Project for rebuilding and restoring (radio acorn tubes)
54. Scientific manual calculator production line
55. Videotape production line
56. Resistors production line
57. Electronic component-insertion line
58. Saddam irrigation project (11 June 1995)

Mineral Production Projects (21 June 1995)

59. System for production of high-purity lead
60. Copper system
61. Aluminum powder production system
62. Copper cathode system
63. Copper powder production plant
64. Vanguard system for alumina production

Restoration of Conferences Palace (18 August 1994)

This was the first project to be restored in the 27th year of the revolution after the enemies had destroyed large parts of the palace and had dealt it brutal blows with laser-guided bombs, each weighing 2,000 pounds, on the night of 12 February 1991.

Inauguration of the palace after its restoration coincided with the birthday of Prophet Muhammad, the master of all creatures, may God's peace and prayers be upon him.

Strugglers exerted great efforts to secure the needed materials and to provide the alternatives used in the restoration.

Initial studies showed that imports would exceed 12 million Iraqi dinars, but the thought given to domestic alternatives and management's efforts to secure alternatives reduced the imports to a minimum.

In implementing the project, the principle of transfer from less important areas to more important areas was adopted. The less important areas were compensated with substitutes at an appropriate cost. This approach produced better results.

Wooden Boards Plant

The plant for the production of sawed wooden boards, which is the first of its kind in Iraq, was inaugurated on 11 October 1995.

The plant was built with 100 percent Iraqi expertise. It consists of four complete units and of drying furnaces, each with a capacity of 140 cubic meters of lumber per consignment. A consignment takes an average of 10 days to dry.

The plant contains special machinery to saw eucalyptus tree trunks at the rate of five cubic meters per machine per day. This project seeks to utilize lumber from eucalyptus trees grown in the Public Forestry Organization farms to produce sawed wooden boards as a replacement for imported lumber in order to meet part of the need of the Ministry of Education to produce school desks, of which schools are experiencing a big shortage. The project also seeks to secure the needs of the Ministry of Industry and of the Military Industrialization Authority. The project's designed capacity is 9,000 cubic meters of sawed lumber annually.

Project To Develop Hand-Woven Rug Production

This project, controlled by the General Hand-Woven Rug Organization, was inaugurated on 20 October 1994.

Project structures were built by the Public Engineering Corporation for Industrial Blueprints and Construction. The project produces rugs with a length of one meter to 150 meters, all woven with extraordinarily distinguished efforts.

Thermal Exchangers Production Plant

The thermal exchangers plant, which is the first of its kind in the country, was inaugurated on 22 October 1994.

The plant production capacity amounts to 600 tons annually. This product was monopolized by foreign firms previously and was imported with foreign exchange.

Giant thermal exchangers are involved in chemical, petrochemical, and oil industries, food industries, and others. The plant can handle various exchangers produced from carbonic iron, rust-proof iron, and alloys.

This project was completed with pure Iraqi efforts, relying on equipment and materials available in the country.

Construction of the thermal exchangers production plant under this particular circumstance means that Iraq has entered a new phase in bolstering the country's industrial and service activity and, consequently, in saving vast sums in foreign exchange, plus providing extra employment opportunities by completing requirements of the various industrial projects.

Baked Cinder Project

The plant for the production of cinder, which is involved in the production of cement plants, was inaugurated on 23 October 1994. This plant is the first of its kind in Iraq and it was completed by strugglers of the Ministry of Industry and of the Military Industrialization Authority in 20 months over an area of 30,000 square meters.

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This project meets Iraq's needs in full. Previously, the country imported this kind of cinder from foreign countries in foreign exchange. Foreign firms had demanded $130 million to complete this project before the economic and technological blockade was imposed on Iraq. Meanwhile, industry strugglers completed the project in extraordinary time and with a very sophisticated technology that ensures the production of all types of cinder that Iraq may need in the future.

The Public Company for Industrial Blueprints and Construction implemented this project, which consists of service and production buildings. The service buildings include administration, a laboratory, a cafeteria, and a clinic. The production buildings contain six workshops, structures for produced cinder, pressing machines, crushers, and warehouses for raw materials that are available in the country and involved in the production of baked cinder.

The project produces annually 18,000 tons of baked cinder used to line cement plants. Production capacity amounts to 60 tons daily.

The plant produces the dolomite and the bauxite varieties of cinder. Its importance is redoubled because it will open new horizons for other ceramic industries, in addition to meeting the country's needs of baked cinder.

Numerous auxiliary parties contributed to completing the project, including the Public Mechanical Industries Organization, al-Nida' Public Organization, the Construction Research Center, and the Mechanical and Electrical Blueprinting Center.

Project To Irrigate Lands Between Tigris and Euphrates

It is located within al-Mahmudiyah District, south of the city of Baghdad. The project was inaugurated on 26 October 1994 to irrigate vast lands extending near al-Radwaniyah, al-Yusufiyah, and al-Latifiyah streams. These lands got their water from the Euphrates River by diffusion. The project started with construction of al-Fallujah Dam and the unified Fallujah-Iskandariyah Canal which runs parallel to the Euphrates River. A regulator was built on the Euphrates River to control water levels and to supply the Fallujah Canal with the water the project needs. This water is supplied through the concrete-coated canals of al-Radwaniyah, al-Yusufiyah, and al-Latifiyah that receive their water from the Fallujah-Iskandariyah Canal. Water is supplied according to the needs of the agricultural plans that have been drafted on the basis of the project's designed cultivation intensity.

This project has helped eliminate water shortages since it was connected to a link extending nearly 1.5 km from the Euphrates River. This link has supplied an extra volume of nearly six cubic meters of water per second.

The project was completed in less than one week [as published], using al-Mahmudiyah Irrigation Department's machinery and drills. Thus, nearly 50 million dinars was saved.

A canal covering the Kilometer-42 zone and extending to the Kilometer-56 zone was also built as part of the project, thus ending farmers' hardship with water shortages. The water supplied by this 10-km canal, flowing at a rate of 12 cubic meters per second, is supplied to 45,000 donums of cultivable land.

Hydraulics Factory

The hydraulics factory, the first of its kind in the country, was inaugurated on 30 October 1994.

The project was designed, manufactured, installed, and operated by strugglers of the Military Industrialization Authority, without reliance on any foreign expertise and with materials available in the country.

The factory consists of five production sites: mechanical, ordinary, precision, structural, and components work; cutting; welding; assembling; and testing of hydraulic elements and systems. It also includes a site for the production of electrical boards and magnetic coils for various hydraulic and aerial systems designed and produced by the factory.

Factory products are involved in the design and manufacture of production line systems and elements for all machinery and equipment needed to build plants and factories in the country.

This industrial edifice was built with the intrinsic efforts of the strugglers of the Military Industrialization Authority and of the factory cadres and with the support of strugglers of al-Nida' Public Organization for the Production of Technical Molds, of al-Faw Public Organization, and of al-Riyad Projects Department Civil Works Section.

Products and machinery turned out by the hydraulics factory, which is the first and only one of its kind in the country, were previously monopolized by few international firms. With the construction of this factory, Iraq has embarked for the first time on this type of industry, which is embodied in designing and producing sophisticated hydraulic and aerial systems and elements.

Production of Anti-Freeze for Cooling Systems

The technical and engineering cadres of al-Qa'qa' Public Organization, a unit of the Military Industrialization Authority, have been able to manufacture and produce

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substances and solutions involved in the production of several basic materials, including an anti-freeze solution for various cooling systems. This was announced on 5 November 1994. Anti-freeze production capacity amounts to 26 tons annually.

Booster clays involved in discoloring vegetable oils and wax have also been produced. The production capacity amounts to 100 tons.

Organization specialists have also been able to produce other materials, relying on Iraqi expertise and using raw materials available in Iraq, thus saving millions in foreign exchange. Some of these materials, which are already turned out by production lines, include dyes, detergents, purification materials, and ethyl alcohol. Production capacity amounts to two tons.

The scientific and research cadres of al-Hakam Factory, which belongs to the Military Industrialization Authority, have successfully manufactured and produced protein concentrates for livestock fodder and insecticides.

Working research teams have also been able to manufacture and produce al-Nasr, a bacterial disinfectant; a mosquito insecticide; and a wax-worm pesticide. The teams have also been able to manufacture biological fertilizers used for field crops of all kinds, plus animal gelatin, yogurt starter, and dough yeast. These products have contributed to boosting the national industry and breaking the yoke of the scientific and technological blockade imposed on Iraq.

Construction of Surface Treatment Workshop and Industrial Liquid Waste Treatment Plant

In accordance with His Excellency Leader President Saddam Husayn's command, strugglers of al-Qadisiyah Public Organization of the Military Industrialization Authority completed on 6 November 1994 the surface treatment workshop and the industrial liquid waste treatment plant, along with all its equipment and attachments, for the Iraqi plant project, which is one of the biggest and most comprehensive projects to be built in the country.

The workshop was completed by cadres of al-Qadisiyah Organization, employing the Iraqi management style and using purely intrinsic resources.

Precision Foundry Project

The precision foundry project, constructed by cadres of the Military Industrialization Authority's al-Qadisiyah Public Organization, was inaugurated on 8 November 1994. The project consists of the workshop for the production of wax models, the workshop for coating with ceramic, the workshop specializing in melting processes, and the cutting and finishing workshop.

The project was designed, manufactured, implemented, and completed with intrinsic efforts, with the creative Iraqi management style, and with materials available domestically. Previously, the production of the equipment, furnaces, and machinery for this type of project was monopolized by foreign firms.

The project is an important accomplishment that has been made without reliance on foreign expertise, thus saving nearly $5 million in foreign exchange. This project consists of wax presses, revolving paint tubs, a fixed spray, a conveyor belt, and furnaces for various uses and with varied specifications, including a drying furnace, a sintering furnace, and a furnace for melting metals. The project also includes primary and secondary cutting machines, a ceramic-crushing machine, and a sand-spraying machine. Parts produced by the project, which has an annual production capacity of 40 tons of varied precision foundry products, are used in the workshops of al-Qadisiyah Public Organization.

Al-Rassas River Revival

Al-Rassas River revival project in Salah-al-Din Governorate was completed on 9 November 1994. The river is 35 km long and it serves an area of 120,000 donums.

The project's water flow capacity is 30 cubic meters per second and it contributes to the reclamation of new cultivatable land.

Al-Karamah Bridge

This bridge was inaugurated in the city of al-Kut on 14 December 1994. It was the last of 115 bridges to be constructed by the Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction as part of the campaign to restore bridges destroyed by the aggression. It is an important bridge because it links the central governorates with the southern governorates. The bridge is 382 meters long and 14 meters wide.

Al-Jihad Irrigation Project

This project, which was built by the Irrigation Ministry cadres in Wasit Governorate and which serves 220,000 donums of cultivatable lands in Wasit and al-Qadisiyah Governorates, was inaugurated on 19 January 1995. It is a 100-km long project with a water flow rate of 50 cubic meters per second. Numerous concrete structures have been built on the irrigation canal, including a front regulator on the Tigris River, two box-shaped culverts, two siphon pumps, three bridges for vehicle crossing, four bridges for pedestrians, and 40 irrigation outlets. A total of 15,000 cubic meters of concrete was used.

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Siphon Canal Project

On 20 January 1995, a siphon canal was inaugurated below Saddam River, al-Diwaniyah Governorate, to irrigate 155,000 donums of cultivatable lands in Budayyir 'Afak area. The siphon system disposal capacity amounts to 50 cubic meters of water per second.

Project for al-Nasr and Al Hatim Streams

The project for al-Nasr and al Hatim streams in al-Nasr District, Dhi Qar Governorate, was inaugurated on 1 February 1995. The project was implemented by al-Hadba' Irrigation Projects Company. The two streams are 108 km long and have a water flow capacity of 15-16 cubic meters per second. The project adds a new cultivatable area amounting to 120,000 donums. The earth excavation volume for both streams amounted to nearly 2 million cubic meters. The dirt volume used to elevate the dams for the two streams amounted to 870,000 cubic meters.

Construction of Greater Saddam Mosque

The Greater Saddam Mosque in Salah-al-Din Governorate, implemented by the engineering department of the Presidential Office, was inaugurated on 26 February 1995. The mosque is built on 40,000 square meters. It consists of the main entrance, which is an open structure that has an area of 18x18 meters and is seven meters high. The mosque contains a two-floor library wing which has an area of 2,324 square meters. The prayer place, which is the main part of the mosque, can accommodate a congregation of 1,500 people. It has an area of 54x30 meters and is nine meters high. The mosque also includes a prayer place for women which can accommodate 250 women. It is worth noting that the leader president, may God protect him, has visited the project more than 25 times.

Construction of Martyr 'Adnan Khayrallah Mosque

Martyr 'Adnan Khayrallah Mosque in al-Qadisiyah Housing Complex, Baghdad, was inaugurated on 27 February 1995. The engineering department of the Presidential Office constructed the project on an area of 6,000 square meters. The prayer places for both men and women have an area of 840 square meters and can accommodate a congregation of 800 men and women. The minaret is 30 meters high, symbolizing 30 July. The mosque height, which is 17 meters, symbolizes the 17 July revolution. Annexes attached to the mosque include a hall with an area of 700 square meters for religious occasions. This hall can accommodate 100 visitors. The mosque also includes a car park, a drinking water network, a communication network, and a complete sewage system.

Saddam Tower

Saddam Tower, a gigantic cultural edifice, was inaugurated on 12 March 1995. This tower was built by strugglers of the Military Industrialization Authority under circumstances of the continued and unjust blockade. It is 203.5 meters high and is the first project of its kind in Iraq.

The tower was constructed in accordance with the leader's command to build a new tower to replace al-Ma'mun Communications Tower, which was damaged by the 30-state aggression in 1991. The tower consists of two concrete sections with a height of 120 meters, topped by a steel structure which rises to a height of 203.5 meters. The tower is planted on 36 concrete supports and it consists of three communication platforms, each with an area of 114 square meters. It also contains tourist facilities, such as coffee shops and restaurants, including a revolving restaurant which enables one to see Baghdad, the capital, from that height.

Restoration of 14 July Suspension Bridge

The 14 July Suspension Bridge, the crossing and defiance bridge which had been completely destroyed by the hostile air raids launched by the treacherous 30-state aggression on 9 February 1991, was inaugurated on 19 March 1995. The bridge, 336 meters long, was 90 percent damaged; the parts submerged under water were 65 percent damaged. The bridge was restored by 15 organizations, centers, and plants belonging to the Military Industrialization Authority. It was rebuilt in three stages: debris removal, blueprinting, manufacturing, and installing. The strugglers drafted 3,500 blueprints to restore it, considering that foreign firms that had built the bridge previously did not leave behind any blueprints or documents connected with it. The suspension bridge is distinguished from ordinary bridges in that the open space it has between one concrete support and another is very long, amounting to 168 meters. It has 84 plumb line cables. The bridge weighs nearly 7,000 tons; 30 percent goes for the steel structure and 40 percent for asphalt and concrete.

Project to Link al-Ishaqi Drain

The project to link al-Ishaqi drains to Saddam River was inaugurated on 12 April 1995. This project will improve 300,000 donums of cultivatable land and rid it of salts. It consists of a main 38.5-km long canal. It has width of 4-16 meters at the bottom and of 24-46 meters at the top. It is 5-7.5 meters deep and it has a disposal capacity of 54,000 cubic meters per hour. The project includes 58 concrete structures and six bridges—four for pedestrians and two for vehicles. It also includes seven culverts for vehicle crossing. It is to be noted that

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the project was completed in an extraordinary time of no more than 150 days.

Construction of Rock Wool Plant

The military rock wool plant, the first of its kind in Iraq and one of the country's important industrial projects, was inaugurated on 16 April 1995. The plant's production capacity amounts to 3,000 tons annually or the equivalent of 1.2 million square meters of heat insulation matting. Rock wool is also used extensively for industrial purposes. The project was completed in an extraordinarily short time. Project construction started in June 1994 and experimental operation started in February 1995. The project has produced foreign exchange savings estimated at $2.6 million. This sum will increase when the second phase of the project is completed.

Project for Irrigation of al-Dulu'iyah Lands

The first phase of the project to irrigate al-Dulu'iyah lands, Salah-al-Din Governorate, was inaugurated on 18 April 1995 to irrigate 30,000 donums of fertile lands that produce crops for agro-industry. The project was completed in an extraordinarily short time, not exceeding nine months. The first phase and a part of the second phase were completed. The work involved moving 800,000 cubic meters, dumping and compressing more than two million cubic meters, leveling more than 416,000 square meters, and lining more than 345,000 square meters. Moreover, 31 concrete structures and 174 small structures were built. Main canals totaling 96 km in length were built; six pumping plants were installed; and 21 kilometers of power lines were extended, along with transformers. Six bridges for vehicles and two siphon systems were built, and 397 iron gates were installed to control water flow.

Furniture Production Project

One of the most modern furniture plants in the region was inaugurated on 24 April 1995. The project is the biggest of its kind in Iraq and it was built, completed, and operated with magnificent defiance of circumstances of the unjust blockade imposed on our proud Iraq. The project can produce 25,000 pieces of bedroom, living room, and dining room furniture and other types of furniture. The project is distinguished by its large production capacity, by the variety of products it turns out, and by its modern machinery.

Project To Link Oil Stores

This project was inaugurated on 26 April 1995. It links the central oil tanks with the oil pipeline system that transports oil derivatives from al-Karkh store in al-Latifiyah to al-Habbaniyah and al-Anbar stores through al-Wasat refinery. The capacity to pump derivatives through the pipeline amounts to 250 cubic meters per hour. The project is a 156-km long pipeline with diameters of 16 inches and 12 inches, and it transports oil derivatives.

Project for Sanitary Fixtures Plant

The plant to produce sanitary fixtures, which belongs to al-Shahid Martyr Public Organization, a unit of the Military Industrialization Authority, was inaugurated on 29 April 1995. This is the first project of its kind in the country for the production of mixers [khallatat] and faucets. It consists of several sections, including a section for the production of sand cores, a melting unit, a casting unit, a mechanical operation unit, and a sanding and polishing unit.

Greater Iraqi Factory

The first phase of the Greater Iraqi Factory was inaugurated on 30 April 1995 as part of the Saddam Factories Complex. The first phase of the Saddam Factories Complex-Iraqi Factory included the following seven plants:

1. The mechanical operation system includes a large number of programmed and sophisticated Iraqi strengthening [ta'ziz] machines, lathes, and other kinds of equipment. Precision spare parts, such as spare parts for sophisticated machinery, precision equipment, and production equipment, are produced in this plant.

2. The welding plant includes a number of specialized machines. Unconventional welding processes for complex parts are performed here.

3. The precision foundry includes specialized machinery and equipment for casting various parts through the use of wax models [molds] to produce parts for most industries which cannot get such parts from conventional foundries.

4. The pressing and cutting machinery plant includes pressing machines with various capacities, machines that cut with torches, machines that cut with cable, and an electro-chemical storage machine. These are sophisticated and computer-controlled machines. Pressing work and complex cutting processes are performed at this plant.

5. The aluminum foundry, which contains specialized equipment and lines for the production of cortex molds, performs sand-based and pressure-based casting processes to produce aluminum parts for cars, tractors, hydraulic pumps, and other machinery.

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6. The plastic plant includes several injection and inflation machines that are used for the production of plastic parts for various factories.

7. The surface treatment plant includes a variety of sophisticated equipment.

Project for Production of Xylenes and Solvents

The project for the production of xylenes and solvents, which is a major project in the petrochemical industries, was inaugurated on 2 May 1995. It was constructed by the strugglers with national expertise and with domestic alternatives so as to break the blockade. The project represents a qualitative leap in the completion of previously monopolized petrochemical projects. Aromatics production generally is considered a weak point in Arab petrochemical projects. This project is the second of its kind in the region and the first petrochemical project to rely on national scientific knowledge and to be implemented completely without any foreign assistance or expertise. It is hoped that the project will constitute the starting point for enlarging the base that uses petrochemicals. It is also hoped that it will be the support for other projects that rely on it and that its products will be used directly in the production of pesticides that are necessary for enhancing the agricultural sector. It is further hoped that dye production will rely largely on the solvents the project produces. In its second phase, this project will provide the possibility of producing polyester fibers that are used in the weaving and textile industry. It will also provide the possibility for producing semi-processed materials for the production of various resins and adhesives.

Construction of Seven Specialized Production Plants

Seven specialized plants serving the industrial, agricultural, and health sectors were inaugurated on 3 May 1995 to achieve food security. The seven plants are:

1. The plant for the production of phenol, which is involved in the production of drugs and resins. It is also involved as a primary material in the production of pesticides.

2. The plant for the production of aniline, which is involved as a primary material in the production of drugs, dyes, elastic products, batteries, and agricultural pesticides.

3. The plant for the production of seed-rot pesticide as an alternative to the imported pesticide covers the country's needs.

4. The plant for production of the potato-weed herbicide as an alternative to the imported herbicide meets the country's needs.

5. The plant for the production of di-xenon for control of the corn-stem bore meets the country's needs so this product does not have to be imported.

6. Enlargement of the plant that produces ferric chloride, which is used to treat steam water boilers in power production plants.

7. The plant for the production of benzyl chloride and benzene alcohol, which are involved in the production of drugs, pesticides, and dyes.

The Precision Aluminum Foundry Project

The precision aluminum foundry project was inaugurated on 16 May 1995. It has an annual production capacity of 50 tons. The 17 April plant for the production of porous stone was also inaugurated. This plant, which belongs to the Military Industrialization Authority, was implemented completely with Iraqi expertise and with the use of domestic alternatives.

Production Systems Project

The production systems project was inaugurated on 27 May 1995. This project was implemented by strugglers of the Industrial Chemistry Research Center and with Iraqi expertise. These production systems were accomplished with Iraqi national research, design, and implementation efforts which reflected creativity in its most magnificent form. Locally available raw materials and industrial leftovers were used for the purpose. The systems are:

1. The metal oxides production system
2. The copper benzoate production system
3. The calcium stellite production system
4. The salicylic powder production system
5. The phosphate salts purification system
6. The silicon emulsifiers production system
7. The ionic pipe exchangers separation and boosting system
8. The liquefied nitrogen production system
9. The oxazine production system

Copper Cable Production Plant

The copper cable production plant, the first of its kind in the country, was inaugurated on 31 May 1995. The strugglers manufactured major and sophisticated equipment which formed the mainstay of this vital project. The strugglers also succeeded in putting the plant into operation at a high copper cable production rate so it will supply our other industrial installations in order that they will, in turn, complete the conversion of these cables into electric cables of various sizes and kinds. These cables are used as a main element in producing coil for various electrical motors. They are

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also used in electrical power lines and communication cables. Copper cables are also used in various other areas.

The project will contribute to providing a major element, namely high conductivity cable, eight millimeters in diameter. This cable is required for electric motor coils, transformer cables, power lines, and communications cable.

Construction of Projects Specialized in Electronic Products

On 10 June 1995, a number of projects specializing in electronic products and consisting of the following were inaugurated:

1. The plant for the production of sophisticated Iraqi colored television sets
2. The project for rebuilding and restoring radio tubes
3. A line for the production of scientific manual calculators
4. A videotape production line
5. A line for the production of resistors with a capacity ranging from 1 ohm to 10 megaohm.

Saddam Irrigation Project

The Saddam irrigation project, designated to irrigate 70,000 donums of cultivatable lands extending between Salah-al-Din and al-Ta'mim Governorates, was inaugurated on 11 June 1995. The project included the construction of a network of 22 main water-transporting canals coated with concrete to irrigate 70,000 donums of new cultivable lands between Salah-al-Din and al-Ta'mim Governorates so fields will flourish and prosperity will spread there. Over a period of 300 working days, a total of 2 million cubic meters of earth was dug and moved.

Mineral Product Projects

A number of mineral product projects were inaugurated on 21 June 1995. They are embodied in the high purity lead production system, using leftovers involved in the production of batteries. This project has a production capacity of 1,500 tons annually. The projects also include the copper production system and the aluminum powder production system, which uses scrap aluminum, to meet the need of the country's thermostone production plants. This project has a production capacity of 100 tons annually. The projects also include the cathode copper system which, using scrap copper, produces high purity copper that is a main component in the production of copper cable. This system has an annual production capacity of 600 tons annually. The projects further include a copper powder production system which uses scrap copper to produce high purity copper powder. The system has an annual capacity of 20 tons, which meets the dye industry needs. The projects include, moreover, the pioneer system for the production of alumina from domestic crude kaolin at a rate of 30 tons annually. Alumina is involved in the production of glass, electric insulators, melting pots, and steel.

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'More Than 48' Iraqi Military Defectors Said Detained

MM1509110395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Sep 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Israel Holding 48 Iraqi Servicemen Seeking Political Asylum"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Diplomatic sources in Amman have revealed that the Israeli authorities are currently holding more than 48 Iraqi servicemen who have infiltrated into Israel across Jordanian territory over the past 30 months, seeking political asylum.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Israeli authorities have subjected the Iraqi servicemen to extensive interrogation to learn as much as possible about military conditions in Iraq and that some of these military men have supplied the Israeli authorities with information about the Iraqi Army in the hope of being granted political asylum.

The sources said that, having extracted all the military information about Iraq from the Iraqi servicemen, the Israeli authorities decided to deport them, but Arab states refused to receive them, and they are all now subjected to administrative detention in Israeli jails.

Government Denies Expelled Palestinians Entry to Gaza

TA1309122595 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 13 Sep 95 p 9

[Report by Eli Bohadana, 'Ada Kohen, and Shefi Gabay]

[FBIS Translated Text] Some 40 Palestinian refugees — including 11 children and babies — expelled from Libya and intent on entering the Gaza Strip are being kept at the Rafah crossing on the Egyptian side of the border. Israel is not permitting them to enter the Strip while Egypt refuses to return them to Egypt proper.

Israeli security elements fear that in the wake of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's threats "to flood the territories with masses of Palestinians," thousands of Palestinians are going to arrive at the crossing. A senior military source told MA'ARIV yesterday: "If we permit the entry of 40 Palestinian refugees from Libya today, then another 40,000 will turn up tomorrow."

Only a small room was set aside in Rafah for the deportees, and they have been waiting there for several days. "We and the Palestinians give them water, food, and other humanitarian aid," Gil'ad Menashe, the manager of the crossing told MA'ARIV.

The Foreign Ministry said yesterday: "At this stage, there is no decision. The security forces are looking through their papers and will decide what to do about them."

Israeli sources believe that the Palestinian Authority is also not interested in the entry of the refugees since the absorption of thousands of refugees into the Gaza Strip will be a serious burden on their economy.

'Arafat conferred in Alexandria with President Husni Mubarak yesterday and asked him to act immediately to prevent the mass deportation of Palestinians from Libya.

Labor, Opposition on Palestinian State Proposal

TA1509125195 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 15 Sep 95 p 5

[Report by Menahem Rahat]

[FBIS Translated Text] "It is a competition over who will give up more." This is how Labor's Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur commented on Labor Secretary General Nisim Zvili's initiative to amend the Labor platform so that it does not rule out the establishment of a Palestinian state.

The Labor secretary general, who expressed his positive view of the idea of a Palestinian state earlier in the week, caused a storm in his party yesterday when he reiterated his stand. "I will suggest that we reconsider our determined rejection of the idea and that this option be allowed in the negotiations as well. I am certain the Labor Convention will support this."

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, however, said yesterday that he prefers the solution of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation "which is very essential for peace." This confederation, he added, will include a demilitarized zone — Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. "It is possible that, in that federation, these three areas will not gain sovereignty."

Reacting to Zvili's comment, Minister Tzur said that "in addition to the real substantive damage such an offer could cause, it could also harm Labor politically by placing it on the left fringes."

The opposition parties also harshly criticized Zvili's remarks. Likud Knesset faction Chairman Moshe Qatzav said that the true face of Labor is now being revealed. "Zvili has removed the mask of hypocrisy from his party's face, and he is now aligning himself with the platforms of the Arab parties."

Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan said that the prime minister must make clear that he does not share Zvili's views.

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"If Rabin does not distance himself from this remark, it will become apparent that the fraud that started in Oslo and continued with 156 murdered Israelis will go on."

National Religious Party Chairman Zvulun Hammer said that Labor is being carried away in performing the biggest political strip tease of the century. "The paint is coming off the walls of the once-prominent party that has forsaken its basic principles and been assimilated into Meretz," he said.

Rabin Asks Media To Limit Reports on POW's

TA0809150495 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Sep 95 p A5

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an attempt to limit the damage to relations with Egypt, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is trying to stop further Israeli media reports on the affair involving the murder of Egyptian POW's.

In a meeting held several days ago with a small forum that included newspaper editors and senior radio and television personalities, Rabin referred to "the serious damage the reports have done to relations with Cairo" and urged them to tone down the reports. 'Aliza Goren, Rabin's media adviser, refused to comment on the meeting or its contents, saying that the prime minister "is acting for the benefit of national interests and not for personal reasons."

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and presidential adviser Usamah al-Baz, who hosted Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan in Cairo, expressed "the Egyptian Administration's distress" over the reports. They said that the opposition has exploited the affair to attack the government; therefore, it is important that Israel remove the affair from the agenda. They called on Israel to investigate the matter and did not agree that this cannot be done because of the statute of limitations. Nevertheless, no demands were made regarding the type of investigation.

Yesterday, Dayan denied the report in AL-AHRAM, the Egyptian newspaper, that Israel agreed to compensate the families of the POW's murdered by Israelis. He said that in all his conversations, he stressed the principle that the state "is not responsible for the actions of private people and that considering that these actions were perpetrated by individuals, if at all, the state bears no responsibility and there is no room for compensation."

Dayan stressed that Egypt did not present any request for compensation. In response to AL-AHRAM's question on whether Israel will agree to pay humanitarian compensation, Dayan replied that no such request was made and that there is no room for compensation in any event.

Brazilian Publication Interviews Peres

PY1309184495 Sao Paulo ISTOE in Portuguese 6 Sep 95 pp 5, 6, 7

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Jayme Brener, at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Brener] Two years after the accord with the PLO, do you believe the two countries are about to definitively establish peace?

[Peres] Yes, I believe we are. We have managed to gradually settle our differences with the Palestinians, we have peace with Jordan, and are negotiating peace with Syria. In addition, we have started to implement economic cooperation with the other Arab countries. The world has enough reasons to look at our situation with optimism. This optimism is justified if we consider what is occurring in the former Yugoslavia.

[Brener] Apparently, however, the number of Hamas fundamentalist Muslims is increasing among Palestinians, and this would represent a weakening of Yasir 'Arafat's position.

[Peres] It is true that the Hamas explodes bombs. I do not believe, however, that the fundamentalist movement is growing. There have never been so many women abandoning the habit of wearing veils, and so many who are wearing mini-skirts and bikinis, in the Gaza Strip. This shows that the Palestinians are looking toward the future.

[Brener] Some of the Hamas' communiques are being published in Damascus (capital of Syria). Do you believe this is the Syrian Government's way of making clear that it is moving away from the peacemaking process?

[Peres] President Hafiz al-Asad's Syria has always had dangerous links to Islamic terrorism, although this sort of terrorism is closer to the Iran of the ayatollahs. We hope peace negotiations between Israel and Syria have been interrupted only temporarily. Syrians, however, have a mysterious way of sending messages. If they are behind the recent bomb attacks in Israel, they may have been trying to exert pressure to force Israel to speed up the peacemaking process; otherwise, there may be other attacks.

[Brener] In one of your books, you say that misery is the father of Islamic fundamentalism. The PLO has been complaining about the slow progress of negotiations with Israel for the transference of autonomy over the

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Gaza Strip and Jericho. Wouldn't this slowness be the mother of fundamentalism?

[Peres] I do not think the process is slow. We have advanced a lot in two years. The truth is that the fundamentalists promise paradise to the people. They promise a place where everything will be gold and silver, where there will be happiness, maybe even restaurants that serve food for free. It is absurd and Palestinians, like the other Arab peoples, will finally realize that. Economic progress will clarify things.

[Brener] In the Middle East, surprising things sometimes have a way of happening. Can we perhaps learn, when we open a newspaper one of these days, that Israel and Syria have agreed about the Golan Heights, and thus solved the key problem for the establishment of peace?

[Peres] I think that this can hardly occur all of a sudden. Syrians are very slow.

[Brener] Talking about attacks, there have been two bomb explosions in Buenos Aires in the last few years: One against the Israeli Embassy, and another against the headquarters of a Jewish institution. Do you believe there is an Islamic terrorist connection in Latin America?

[Peres] Some things are undoubtedly occurring, and, whenever it is requested, the Syrian Government helps other governments. I believe that we need an international antiterrorist organization, a sort of Interter, similar to Interpol. Terrorism is not an Israeli problem or the problem of any isolated country, but of the entire world.

[Brener] There is a Brazilian woman, Lamia Maruf, who has been imprisoned in Israel on charges of having collaborated in the murder of a soldier. Now that so many Palestinians are recovering their freedom as a result of the peace accords, what are the possibilities of her being released?

[Peres] She has committed a crime and is serving her sentence. This has nothing to do with her being Brazilian.

[Brener] Last week, you received Brazilian Foreign Minister Luiz Felipe Lampreia. For a long time, Saddam Husayn's Iraq has been one of Brazil's great economic partners. What do you expect, for the future, with regard to Israeli-Brazilian relations?

[Peres] In the days of the Cold War, the world lived under two divisions: East-West, which divided the world between communism and democracy; and North—South, which divided it between rich and poor. Now, these two divisions no longer exist. Communism has disappeared and countries that used to be considered part of the Third World now have some of the most successful economies in the world, such as the PRC and Brazil. Therefore, now is the time to redefine our relations. This is not a challenge for the new Israel only, but also for the Arab world. For them, this is the only possibility of restraining Islam's reactionary fundamentalism.

[Brener] You have a great deal of hope regarding the possibility of implementing economic integration in the Middle East. How is the exchange between Israel and the Arab countries progressing?

[Peres] It is beginning. The problem, however, is not Israeli-Arab relations, but relations between the Middle East and the 21st century. We must know whether we will adopt the market economy once and for all and, to this end, we have to open the paths that lead toward technological development. Latin American countries, such as Argentina and Brazil, have definitively — and successfully — adopted the market economy. This has not occurred here yet, and some people already believe that Israel wants to dominate its neighbors.

[Brener] But Israel is the most developed country in the region.

[Peres] Yes, but the Middle East has no economy — it has poverty. Our economy has almost nothing in common with our neighbors' economies, because we basically export high tech [preceding two words in English] products to the developed countries. If we wanted to control the area, we would become partners of this poverty, and we do not want that. The Middle East can grow as a whole and we want to cooperate in that.

[Brener] You always speak about the future. There will be elections in Israel next year and the image of the Labor Party administration has been losing its glow. What will happen if the rightist party, the Likud, wins the elections?

[Peres] The entire peacemaking process may be paralyzed. It was the Likud that promoted the policy of indiscriminately settling Jewish people in the occupied Palestinian territories. In 1986, when we comprised a coalition administration with them, we were but a step from reaching a peace accord with Jordan, and they blocked it. The right says they want peace, but without negotiating with the PLO. With whom do they want to negotiate?

[Brener] Do you plan to run for prime minister in the next elections?

[Peres] I will decide about that at the right moment.

[Brener] For a long time you have been defending the idea of making territorial concessions to Israel's former

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enemies in exchange for peace. Have you ever felt alone in this position? Have you felt so even within your own party?

[Peres] Often. Some days ago, I attended a reception King Husayn offered in honor of a British nobleman who had acted as mediator between the two countries in the 1980's. At that time, people laughed when I said that Jordan had an option for peace. Nowadays, even the most conservative recognize the progress made.

[Brener] In Israel, some say that the government has done nothing to convince at least some of the 120,000 Jewish settlers to leave the occupied West Bank, and thus render the peacemaking process easier.

[Peres] The problem is that if we had begun to pay compensation to the settlers who agreed to leave the West Bank before a definitive solution was reached with the Palestinians, we would have transformed the whole process into a huge moneymaking business, and lots of people would found new settlements just to receive compensation.

[Brener] Israel has just appointed its first non-Jewish ambassador to represent the country before Finland. Do you believe that in the future the Jewish state may be replaced by an Israeli state?

[Peres] The Jewish only have one state, while the Arabs have 24. Minorities live tranquilly here, but I do not believe that the Jewish state, with a clear majority of Jewish people, will cease to exist.

[Brener] What do you think will happen to dictator Saddam Husayn?

[Peres] I don't like to predict things, but I must point out that we all have to die one day, although we never know when.

[Brener] Is it true that in the last few months Saddam has offered Israel a peace accord?

[Peres] These rumors have been spread around many bar tables in Iraq, but there has been nothing concrete.

[Brener] You have occupied several positions linked to the area of defense, you have been one of those responsible for the Israeli nuclear program, you have been among the Labor Party falcons, you have changed sides and, for more than one decade, you have been defending the idea of granting territorial concessions in order to reach peace. Do you regret any of these things?

[Peres] It is rather early for me to repent, and I think this would not be a very smart thing to do because I continue participating in my country's political life. In addition, I believe my adversaries have more reasons to repent.

Jerusalem Rejects Cessation of German Aid Programs

AU1409133995 Duesseldorf HANDELSBLATT in German 14 Sep 95 p 8

[Report by "ca": "Jerusalem Rejects Cessation of Bonn's Aid Programs"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jerusalem, 13 Sep — Israel has not approved the cessation of German economic aid, amounting to 140 million German marks [DM] per year, and the planned use of these funds to finance regional development projects, which are to benefit primarily the Palestinians and Jordan.

A high-ranking official in the Finance Ministry told HANDELSBLATT that Jerusalem presented all arguments to Development Aid Minister Carl Dieter Spranger and his associates during their latest visit to the Middle East. Bonn's conclusion that it has been possible to largely allay Israel's reservations must be based on a misunderstanding.

Bonn justifies the cessation of economic aid as of 1996 by pointing to the fact that, given a per capita income of $13,700 last year, Israel can no longer be classified as a developing country. Jerusalem does not accept this automatic conclusion. [passage omitted]

Jerusalem reportedly welcomes the German intention to support the Middle East peace process with its regional program and to thus finance the realization of the planned projects. However, these projects cannot be put on Israel's bill alone. During the talks in Jerusalem Finance Minister Avraham Shohat explained the Israeli position to the German guest and asked him for details of the German concept for regional programs. However, this request cannot be interpreted as Israeli approval for Bonn's program.

Spranger promised to fulfill Shohat's wish and to present a detailed plan of investments. Only then will Israel comment on the matter. The Finance Ministry reacted to the announcement that Bonn promised DM72 million during bilateral negotiations with Jordan and the Palestinian autonomy administration by pointing out that it cannot be interpreted as agreement that these and future funds will be taken from the development aid allocated to Israel. According to reliable sources in Jerusalem, now various possibilities are being examined to facilitate the continuation of German economic aid to Israel from other sections of the budget and under different authority.

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Ukraine's Kozyrev to Rabin: Cold War Could Return

TA1509072295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin returned last night from a three-day visit to Russia and Ukraine. A Qol Yisra'el reporter who accompanied the prime minister said that the Russian leaders had expressed their deep concern over the NATO bombing of Bosnian Serb targets and the American support for the Bosnian Government. Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev warned that the situation in Bosnia could lead to a much wider war in the Balkans. Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said that the Bosnian situation could lead to a return of the Cold War between Russia and the U.S.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 15 September carries a related report by correspondent Hayim Hecht aboard Rabin's plane, which adds that Kozyrev told Rabin: "What is it? Do the Americans want to set up a Muslim state in the heart of Europe? When the Russians pressed the prime minister to take a position on this war-torn area, Rabin said: Let me be; I have enough troubles of my own.

["Senior political sources in Jerusalem were surprised by the intense anti-American sentiment in Moscow and estimated that although this crisis is not directly related to the Middle East, it could evolve in a dangerous direction through the tightening of Russia's relations with Iran and Iraq."

[Hecht goes on to report that the question of the talks with Syria came up in the meetings, and that "even the Russians, who are considered experts on Syria, said: We do not understand what al- Asad is doing. Defense Minister Grachev emphasized that Russia had stopped supplying long-range missiles to Syria three years ago. Damascus owes the Russians $11 billion, and Moscow has no intention of writing off this debt."]

Paper Urges Russian Support To Offset U.S. Stand

TA1009153095 Tel Aviv VESTI in Russian 7 Sep 95 p 5

[Commentary by Eduard Gerzon: "Barbecue Diplomacy and What it Reeks Of]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 14 June 1992, at the peak of his struggle for the presidency, Bill Clinton firmly declared: "I recognize Jerusalem as the indivisible, eternal capital of Israel."

Nevertheless, the very day the festival marking Jerusalem's 3,000th anniversary was launched, U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk happened to be invited to a barbecue on the occasion of some sort of Labor Day. Sure, it happens. Jerusalem will, of course, stay where it is, while barbecued meat will, first of all, get cold, and second, will be grabbed by other guests, in case one happens to be late.

Diplomats are supposed to know how to present any inanity in a way that at least seems to be authentic. Otherwise, he is no diplomat. It looks sort of unprofessional. And describing the Jerusalem 3000 festival as a mere cultural event, at which an American cultural attache will suffice, is totally incomprehensible and inappropriate.

Obviously, the real reasons for the barbecue diplomacy are quite different: The White House has decided that the U.S. ambassador's presence at the Jerusalem festivities would not be in the interests of the United States, as it might rile the Arabs, who are so very sensitive.... If that is the case, they should have said so plainly. Why behave with a colonialist's disrespect for the natives? We are not the red-skinned natives of those times, and we do not buy tall tales.

Our prime minister has already voiced his discontent bordering on outrage on the matter, yet he failed to touch on the very essence of the problem.

Is anyone oblivious to the fact that of all U.S. Administrations, Clinton's is the most pro-Israel? No one is. Yet, just like every previous presidential team, it is committed to the concept of Israel's withdrawing to the 1949 borders, albeit with certain amendments. There is only one difference: While previous administrations brazenly pressured us, this one is trying to achieve its objective through the carrot-and-stick method. Admittedly, the administration's working premise is that Israel should be strong and capable of defending itself. Thence the wide-scale military cooperation, as well as diplomatic backing in international forums. So much is true. Yet being a typical American politician, Clinton is unable to renounce that without which U.S. politics are unfortunately unimaginable — the attempts to implement the traditional Pax Americana, which assigns Israel the role of a protectorate dependent on American aid and patronage. And such a protectorate does not really need any sort of a strategic depth or strategically vital heights. This concept is more than contrary to Zionist goals — it bodes a catastrophe. The attempts to implement the Pax Americana ideas in other parts of the world have failed more than once.

Martin Indyk's awkward diplomatic maneuver is most probably evidence that when negotiations on the permanent status of Israel's capital are launched, Washington will take special pains to force us into a "compromise" — dividing Jerusalem into two parts: one Is-

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raeli, one Palestinian. It was no coincidence that Yosi Beilin, a progressive and politically sensitive statesman (currently the economic planning minister), announced at once that the "diplomatic incident" had highlighted "the moment of truth," i.e., that the status quo is unacceptable. He said: "We must strive toward a situation in which the world will acknowledge Jerusalem as our capital." Understanding his remarks is easier than chewing on cold shish kebab: If Israel wants the world to recognize Jerusalem as its capital, it has to give the Palestinians a part of the city. One Beilin doth not an army make, but he is definitely not alone. Definitely not.

The crucial decision seems to be imminent. The government will have to decide whether to struggle for Rabin's vision of "an indivisible Jerusalem, Israel's capital for eternity," or to meet the expectations of the international community by renouncing a part of the city. Judging by the U.S. ambassador's conduct, should Israel opt for Rabin's vision, it may well find itself isolated. If...if it fails to act with diplomatic astuteness by securing the powerful support of such a political and strategic counterbalance to the United States as Russia.

But our envoy to Russia was appointed by that same Beilin — or rather, Shim'on Peres. Which, they say, is almost one and the same. What a pity. Russian support at a time when the status of Jerusalem is discussed would be extremely helpful to us.

Meretz Calls For Evacuation of Hebron Jews

TA1509073395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The left-wing government coalition party Meretz has called for the immediate evacuation of Jewish settlers from Hebron. A statement from party headquarters said that their presence in the city threatens the security of all the inhabitants, Arabs and Jews, as well as the security personnel.

Poll: Majority Against Evacuation

TA1509103295 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 15 Sep 95 p 1

[Public opinion poll "conducted by the Dahaf Institute under the management of Dr. Mina Tzemah"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Question: Should settlers be evacuated from Hebron (not including Qiryat Arba')?

Answer: yes — 39 percent; no — 56 percent; no reply — 5 percent.

Question: Should Israel continue implementing the agreement with the Palestinians even if the Palestinian Authority does not agree to extradite murdering terrorists?

Answer: Continue in any event — 25 percent; continue only if murderers are extradited — 38 percent; discontinue in any event — 36 percent; no reply — 1 percent.

Question: Should extremist right-wing Jewish organizations that support violence against Arabs in Judaea and Samaria be outlawed?

Answer: Yes — 70 percent; no — 28 percent; no reply — 2 percent.

The poll was conducted on 12 and 13 September, surveying 501 interviewees who constitute a representative sample of the adult population in Israel. Margin of error is 4 percent.

Police Believe Palestinians Behind Halhul Murder

TA1309184695 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 Sep 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The police believe that Palestinians murdered Sulayman Zamara in Halhul last week. This is the main line of investigation at the moment. Our military correspondent Roni Daniyel reports that local residents refuse to cooperate in the investigation. The police believe theirs is a coordinated refusal aimed at covering up for the perpetrators. [passage omitted]

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King Husayn, Spain's Gonzalez Hold Closed Meeting

JN1309103995 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn received Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez at Raghadan Palace today in the presence of Crown Prince Hasan. His majesty the king and Spanish Prime Minister Gonzalez then held a closed meeting followed by an expanded one attended by several senior officials from both sides.

During the meeting, they stressed the need to continue joint coordination and contacts between Jordan and Spain on the one hand and Jordan and the EU on the other in all areas of common interest.

His Majesty King Husayn asserted during the meeting the profound historical relations between Jordan and Spain—relations which were established by late King 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn and which were entrenched by his majesty the king and His Majesty King Juan Carlos in line with the joint concepts and values of Spain, the EU, and Jordan in terms of democracy, political pluralism, and respect for human rights.

For his part, the Spanish prime minister stressed that his country and the EU appreciate the wisdom and courage of His Majesty King Husayn, his efforts to achieve comprehensive and lasting peace in the region, and Jordan's pivotal role in preserving the region's security and stability, which are part of the stability of the world and Europe in particular. He added that his country and the EU also support the peace process in the region and that they are eager to promote the region's prospects of peace and stability by contributing to development and improving the life of the region's peoples. He also said that his country and the EU back the Amman economic conference and that they are eager to see its succeed and achieve its goals. [passage omitted]

Bin-Shakir Meets With Gonzalez

JN1209154195 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Official talks between the Jordanian side, headed by His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, and the Spanish side, headed by Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, began at the Prime Ministry this morning.

At the beginning of the talks, his excellency the prime minister welcomed the guest and his delegation, stressing that the two friendly countries maintain distinguished relations and that Jordan is looking forward to enhancing its relations with Spain. His excellency also spoke about Jordan's regional role in building peace and promoting regional development, as well as Jordan's preparations to convene a successful Middle East and North Africa development conference. He also stressed the importance of Spanish-European participation in this conference.

For his part, Gonzalez expressed his happiness to visit Jordan and to meet with his excellency the prime minister, praising the existing strong relations between the two friendly countries. He also praised Jordan's role in achieving just peace in the region and the world at large.

Bin-Shakir Meets With Omani Minister of State

JN1409173395 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, at his place of residence in the al-Hisn Palace in Salalah today. The meeting was attended by Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Hashemite Royal Court.

The two sides reviewed relations between the two sisterly countries in all areas. They stressed the importance of continuing consultations and coordination between Jordan and sisterly Sultanate of Oman in a manner that will serve the regions' stability and security, help realize a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace, and enable its peoples to enjoy the dividends of peace through regional development and prosperity.

Qatari Foreign Minister on Amir's Visit, Ties

JN1309202795 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1640 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 13 Sep (PETRA)—Qatari Foreign Minister His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani, has praised the distinguished brotherly relations between the Jordanian and Qatari peoples. The foundations of these relations were laid by His Majesty King Husayn and his brother the Amir of Qatar, his highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani.

In a statement to Jordan Television, he added that this visit is a brotherly visit and is considered a completion of the brotherly meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and his highness the amir of Qatar. He said he hoped that these contacts will serve the interests of the two fraternal countries and heal the rift in Arab ranks. He noted that visits between Arab heads of state are very important and necessary, especially at this time, in order to heal the rift in the Arab world.

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Asked about Jordanian-Qatari coordination on various issues, the Qatari foreign minister said that this coordination has always existed and falls within efforts to bring viewpoints closer together. He hoped that His Majesty King Husayn and his highness the amir of Qatar will present some ideas and views that will help in this regard.

Asked about Qatari representation in the upcoming Amman economic summit, he said that this representation will be at the foreign minister level, adding: We are eager to attend this summit because it is very important for countries in the region. He stressed the importance of the Arab countries' participation in this summit so that the Arabs can express their viewpoints.

Qatari Foreign Minister His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim added that the Amman economic summit will crystallize many issues we discussed at the Casablanca summit. He noted the significance of the Amman economic summit since Jordan is participating along with Israel and neighboring countries, and especially after Jordan and Israel signed a peace treaty.

He also spoke about the agreements between Jordan and Qatar, stressing the need to activate them. The most important of these agreements is the gas project which will be presented at the Amman economic summit.

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Hizballah's Qasim on 'Resistance,' View of U.S.

NC1409145395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1325 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, 14 Sep (MENA)—A senior Hizballah official in Lebanon has warned that Katyusha rockets will remain the Islamic Resistance's response to any Israeli assault on the civilian populations of the towns and villages in the south and western al-Biqa'. He described Hizballah's use of Katyushas as preemptive and defensive.

Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim told MENA's Beirut correspondent: Our battle against Israeli occupation is not part of the peace process nor can it be halted as part of a deal.

Shaykh Qasim declared that Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the Islamic Resistance will not stop because it is an integral part of Israel's regional scheme.

He strongly denied that Hizballah has ever carried out any military operation or bombing outside south Lebanon, saying: We always emphasize that attacks against U.S. interests anywhere in the world are not part of Hizballah's objectives.

Qasim pointed out that Hizballah is not at war with the United States.

The Hizballah deputy secretary general denounced criminal bombings in France and other Western countries. He declared: We oppose bombing attacks on civilians, public places, and tourist targets.

He added that such attacks contradict Islam's moral stance which focuses on persuasion and dialogue. He did not rule out the possibility that sometimes bombing accusations are unfairly leveled against Islamists.

Shaykh Na'im Qasim denied that Hizballah is training non-Lebanese persons on Lebanese territory or abroad. He said any accusations to this effect are false and lack objective evidence. He affirmed that his party is not ready to help other groups in matters that should only concern them and declared that Hizballah also needs someone to help it [as received] to confront Israeli occupation.

Shaykh Qasim stressed that no Hizballah members are receiving training in Sudanese camps.

He said some Islamic groups view issues from their own special perspective and bear responsibility for their actions. He noted that there are disagreements within the general Islamic movement on issues pertaining to violence and the bombing of government targets. He remarked, however, that this does not mean that all Islamic groups are responsible for whatever violence takes place. He warned of the continuing Western propaganda that seeks to distort the image of Muslims.

Shaykh Qasim denied that Hizballah and Washington have exchanged messages via Damascus, declaring: So far we have received no messages. We are not willing to receive U.S. messages. No U.S. official or visitor to Lebanon has conducted any conversations with a Hizballah official.

The Hizballah official declared that his party opposes the killing of foreigners, journalists, and civilians in Algeria. He reported that Hizballah is holding meetings with representatives of Islamic Jihad, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and other Palestinian organizations with the aim of coordinating stands and cooperating with them.

He explained that the anti-Israeli operations carried out by the Islamic Resistance in south Lebanon were never subject to political considerations and are not connected with the ongoing negotiations or the visits of U.S. envoys to the region. He added that whenever these operations are intensified or scaled back, this is done for purely operational reasons that are not connected with politics.

Qasim noted that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's next tour of the Middle East is part of a necessary political activity to avoid giving the impression that the peace process has been suspended or stopped. Hence it aims to respond to this necessity but not actually to search for a solution.

Shaykh Qasim said that he does not think it is likely that a Syrian-Israeli peace agreement will be reached before the 1996 U.S. presidential election.

He said: Our bet is that these negotiations will most likely fail.

He added that Syria would never accept anything less than a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and south Lebanon. He also noted that Israel is afraid of launching a political adventure that might benefit the opposition Likud Party.

Asked what future awaits Hizballah if Syria and Lebanon reach a political settlement with Israel, he said that after such a settlement is reached, Hizballah will become an influential and undeniable force.

He continued: We will establish an alliance with Syria and will not halt our program of assisting others to liberate their territories.

Shaykh Qasim revealed that contacts are underway between Israel and Hizballah via the Red Cross to negotiate over the release of Israelis held by Hizballah

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since 1987 in return for releasing Lebanese and other Arab detainees from Israeli jails and detention camps. Qasim did not, however, specify what results have been reached in these negotiations.

He warned that Israel has infiltrated the Lebanese home front and said that he expects Israel's agents to try to assassinate and abduct Hizballah leaders.

He disclosed that Hizballah's security apparatus and the Lebanese and Syrian security services have arrested more than 100 such agents who were trying to carry out acts of sabotage and kill officials of Hizballah's Islamic Resistance.

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Envoy Reportedly Refuses To Receive Iraqi Message

JN1409172495 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 11 Sep 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo said Syrian Ambassador to Egypt 'Isa Darwish refused to receive a written message from Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf to his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar'.

The diplomatic sources cited an official at the Syrian Embassy in Cairo as saying that the representative of the Iraqi regime to the Arab League, Nabil Najm al-Tikriti, asked the Syrian ambassador to convey the written message. However, the Syrian ambassador made it clear to the Iraqi official that Syria's position on the Iraqi regime will not change. Syria supports the Iraqi people's struggle to remove dictator Saddam Husayn. The same sources said Nabil Najm al-Tikriti failed to arrange a meeting between the Iraqi regime's foreign minister and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who apologized to al—Tikriti that he could not receive Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf during his recent visit to Egypt. It is noteworthy that the Iraqi media last week propagated false information about the Egyptian and Syrian stands on the Saddam Husayn regime. This has prompted the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY, SANA, and the official Egyptian media to refute the Iraqi media's fabrications. At the same time, they reiterated their principled stand condemning the Iraqi regime and holding Saddam Husayn responsible for the suffering of the Iraqi people.

President al-Asad's Statements on Peace Discussed

JN1409142295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 14 Sep 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] TISHRIN discusses Syria's positions, which are appreciated by the world. The paper says: In the news conference he held with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, President Hafiz al-Asad clarified the position on the Middle East peace process. He announced that Syria has not withdrawn from the peace process and is still committed to it, in accordance with the agreed-upon principles and bases and the UN resolutions, and on the basis of clarity.

TISHRIN blames Israel for the stalemate in the peace process as a result of the obstacles and hurdles which it excels in placing before the chances for a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

TISHRIN notes what President Hafiz al-Asad said; that Israel does not abide by what was agreed upon and that Syria insists on equality in every arrangement that is discussed with Israel. If Israel accepts the bases of peace, then peace can be established in the region. The opposite will be true if Israel continues to reject the basic facts of the peace process, its principles, and the resolutions on which it was based.

TISHRIN says it believes Israel did not only evade the requirements of the just peace and brushed aside what was agreed upon in the security understanding, but also tried — through a large scale deceptive campaign — to blame Syria for the stalemate in the peace process. At the same time, it instructed the hireling media, which it controls, to revive the accusations of terrorism which it used to direct against Syria in the past. These accusations are basically false and unfounded.

TISHRIN stresses that Syria never deals with terrorism and has denounced it on every occasion. Syria, however, supports national resistance which is a right for every people in the world, as it is a right for the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. The intentions of those who disseminate accusations of terrorism right, left, and center, are exposed by the fact that they turn a blind eye to Israel's daily acts of terrorism against Arab citizens in the occupied territories and southern Lebanon.

The paper points out that Syria cannot be intimidated by the falsehoods of Israel and its hireling propaganda machine. Syria enjoys a large degree of respect and appreciation on the international level.

Under a commentary entitled "Two Stands," AL-THAWRAH says: President Hafiz al-Asad reaffirmed Syria's commitment to the peace process on the basis of clarity and the principles on which it is based, and in accordance with the objective bases from which we proceeded, and the UN resolutions, which we, and the world community, have recognized. Leader al-Asad stressed that we seek peace and have made efforts to achieve it. He pointed out that it is Israel which is obstructing peace and that Syria has not withdrawn from the peace process, but wants to see the implementation of UN resolutions, on whose basis the peace process was based and the U.S. peace initiative was launched.

AL-THAWRAH adds: There is a large gap between the Syrian and Israeli positions. Syria seeks a just, comprehensive, and durable peace, while Israel seeks separate, incomplete settlements and feeble agreements, which do not establish peace and guarantee security, and which cannot resist the rapid developments which will cause its collapse.

AL-THAWRAH believes that Israel has pursued, and continues to pursue, deceptive methods and is covering and distorting facts. It stresses that Israel is not serious

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about fulfilling the requirements of the just and comprehensive peace.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: Israel is placing obstacles and is not demonstrating any good intentions. Israel has yet made the decision to achieve peace. This is the biggest hurdle on the path of peace and the peace process.

In another commentary on the same subject, AL-THAWRAH says: It is high time for Israeli Prime Minister Rabin, who yesterday said he wants a compromise solution to the Golan Heights, to realize that compromise solutions are not the best means to boost the peace process because a compromise solution means relinquishing part of the rights and land. This is something which Syria will not accept under any circumstance.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that Syria seeks a just and comprehensive solution that would return all land and rights and is not prepared to bargain, not even over a single inch of the Golan Heights.

In its editorial today, AL-BA'TH discusses the importance of an effective European role in the region and Europe's growing interest in the Middle East, which shares with it the Mediterranean and ties of history and geography.

AL-BA'TH adds: In addition to these ties, Europe attaches great importance to, and appreciates Syria's position, status, and role. This was stated by Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez in the joint news conference he held with President Hafiz al-Asad on 12 September, when he clearly said that Syria is a basic pillar in the region.

The paper says: The Europeans and the world public opinion recall that President Hafiz al-Asad and other Syrian officials have always urged an active European role in the peace process.

AL-BA'TH reaffirms that the Arabs, and particularly Syria, welcome an active and effective European role in this process.

AL-BA'TH urges Europe to support the just peace and international legitimacy and its resolutions. It also urges Europe to work to end the injustice inflicted on the peoples of the region which was brought about by colonialist Europe.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: If Europe supports international legitimacy in a practical and tangible fashion, it can entrench the role of its distinguished union in the international arena. Such a step will positively serve the issue of peace and security, as well as the interests of Europe and the peoples of the region and the world.

Commentary Views European Relations, Peace Process

JN1409145295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Sep 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The talks that were held in Damascus between President Hafiz al-Asad and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez have reminded the entire world, including those who rendered the peace process dormant, of the extreme importance the world peoples and nations attach to peace in the Middle East. Meanwhile, the Israeli side assumes that it can obstruct the peace process the way it pleases. This is as if the Middle East peace is not vital to world peace and the stability of world interests. The talks acquire special importance because Gonzalez visited Damascus on behalf of his country as Spain's prime minister and on behalf of the European community in his capacity as the current chairman of the EU's ministerial council.

In fact, the European community's interest in the Middle East is not new. It dates back to at least the mid-seventies, in the wake of the glorious October 1973 war of liberation, when an effective political framework came into existence, known then as the Arab-European dialogue. Within that framework, the basis was laid for the establishment of joint Arab-European political, economic, and cultural institutions. In the seventies too, the idea of promoting ties between the Mediterranean littoral states came into existence. That meant cooperation between the Arabs and the European nations on the basis of historical equity in the making of the civilizations of the Mediterranean basin.

Obviously, the idea of Mediterranean cooperation differs from the Middle East market idea, which has been dismissed by the Arab nation as a means to achieve Israeli hegemony over the resources of the region. Definitely, the Arab nation welcomes this European interest, which the European community wants to turn into an effective role, especially since Europe, according to Gonzalez, is an economic giant who has not found a way yet to turn its economic and trade weight into political effectiveness. While the talks have reminded the world of the importance of the Middle East peace, the ensuing news conference made it clear to the world public opinion which side is obstructing the peace process. President Hafiz al-Asad said: We started the peace process according to objective bases, principles, and resolutions passed by the United Nations — resolutions which we and the international community recognized. We want peace on the basis of these resolutions. It is the other party that is crippling peace. Thus, President Hafiz al-Asad has reiterated the positive Syrian stand on the

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peace process. This stand would have greatly advanced the peace process had it not been for the intransigent Israeli stand, which has rendered the peace process dormant. The Damascus talks between President Hafiz al-Asad and Spanish Prime Minister Gonzalez clearly mirrored the status of the Syrian-Spanish relations and the Arab-European relations. The talks reflected the interest of the world peoples, including European peoples, in the achievement of peace in the Middle East. The talks also reflected identical views between Syria and Spain on the nature and terms of reference of peace. As stressed by Gonzalez, peace must be based on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the implementation of the UN resolutions related to the occupied territories. He also emphasized that peace must be comprehensive, because for peace to be just, it has to be comprehensive.

Visiting Cubans Hold News Conference

JN1409192095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—A Cuban parliamentary delegation under (Reinold Indus Indus), governor of the Santiago province, has praised the existing relations of friendship and cooperation between the two friendly countries, Syria and Cuba. The delegation, comprising (Omar Ramadan Rabis) and (Alfredo Darwish Goterisi), head of the Arab-Cuban union, as members, praised Syria's militant stands under President Hafiz al-Asad. They commended Syria for defending the Arab people's principles and working to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the region in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations and international legitimacy. In a news conference attended by a number of Arab and foreign correspondents in Damascus, the Cuban parliamentarians stressed Cuba's support for Syria in its just struggle to liberate the occupied Arab territories, restore Arab rights, and not to relinquish an iota of its rights. They denounced the Israeli intransigence on the peace process, failure to comply with the UN resolutions, and insistence on placing obstacles before the peace process.

Members of the delegation said their current visit to Damascus and talks and meetings with senior officials were very positive and fruitful, thus consolidating the relations of friendship and the existing ties between the two countries and peoples in all fields in the service of the two countries' joint interests and issues.

In a separate development, People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al- Qadir Qaddurah issued a decision according to which a parliamentary Syrian-Cuban friendship society will be set up under Ilyas Murad, member of the People's Assembly. This move aims to consolidate the existing relations between the two friendly countries' parliaments and people.

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Afghanistan

UN Envoy To Resume Peace Talks With Leaders

LD1309104695 Tehran IRNA in English 0947 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Sept. 13, IRNA — UN special envoy on Afghanistan, Mahmoud Mestiri is due here on Sunday September 17 to resume peace talks with Afghan leaders and groups for the restoration of peace in the war-torn country.

Dr Abu Sadiq Nafeesa [name as received], spokesman of the office of secretary general for Afghanistan and Pakistan in Islamabad, told IRNA Mestiri will visit Jalalabad, capital of Nangarhar [Province], to talk to the Afghan leaders.

Responding to a question about Mestiri's new peace plan, he said it depended upon his talks with Afghan leaders and the new events in that country.

This is Mestiri's fifth mission on Afghanistan for finding solution to the ongoing Afghanistan crisis which started about two years back.

During the past two years, Mestiri failed to end differences among Afghan groups and bring them at one platform for the cause of their country.

Ministry Urges UN To Investigate Taleban Actions

LD1409201195 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Sep 95

[Foreign Ministry "note" to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali — date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

To His Excellency Butrus Butrus-Ghali, UN secretary general, New York:

Following the note of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan dated 6 September, I have pleasure in passing on the following information to you which in our view has a direct relevance to peace [words indistinct]. We expect that you will take the contents of this note seriously and take practical action.

As we mentioned in our previous note, the Pakistani militia forces, enjoying the support of their country's air and land forces, in collaboration with the mercenary army called the Taleban, which again is a group set up by Pakistan's ISI [Inter-Services Intelligence], have seized some regions in the west, including the city of Herat. Herat has been an exemplary city during the past three years from the point of view of order, sound administration, security, and calm. As a result of this aggression, harsh behavior, and bombing, a great many innocent citizens, including a number of security personnel, were killed on the spot and others have left their houses.

Once again we remind your excellency that this aggression is contrary to all credible international norms. The Islamic State of Afghanistan considers the invasion and subsequent seizure of Herat by Pakistan to be a totally intolerable act. The Islamic State of Afghanistan emphatically draws your attention to the point that the situation stemming from this direct aggression could have unpleasant and irreparable consequences for peace and security in the region.

Irrefutable reports indicate that hundreds of Pakistani military personnel [words indistinct] have been seen by the citizens crossing the city center and have taken up position in the central army corps of Herat.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan regards the consequences of this new escalation of tension as extremely dangerous. The Islamic State of Afghanistan asks your excellency, in prior consultation with the UN Security Council, to send a UN inquiry delegation to the west of the country immediately, before these militiamen are sent to other places, making investigation difficult. The UN inquiry team should have the power to assess and establish military presence and foreign aggression. [Passage indistinct]

Rabbani Forces Shell Taleban Positions in Herat

LD1409135395 Tehran IRNA in English 1340 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Sept. 14, IRNA — Forces loyal to Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani on Wednesday [13 September] targetted positions of Taleban group from Zendehjan region in Herat.

Military spokesman of Afghan Jamiat Islami party Asrarollah announced in Peshawar on Thursday that the forces captured three key centers of Taleban group and clashes still continue.

Spokesman of Taleban group Molawi Golhashem in Peshawar declined to confirm the attacks. However, a neutral source said that there were sporadic fightings in Herat Province.

The strategic city of Herat, in western Afghanistan, which was under control of pro-Rabbani forces, was captured by Taleban group ten days ago.

After the capture of the city Taleban group appointed a new governor for Herat and according to Golhashemi, male schools were reopened three days ago.

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Afghan Government has accused Islamabad of extending financial and military support to Taleban in the recent fightings with the government forces. Islamabad has described the accusations as unfounded.

Rabbani Promises Liberation 'Soon'

LD1409213095 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, our country's president, has told a gathering of educational staff: My advice to you — the educational and training staff — is that you should inculcate in the minds of the young generation a spirit of unity, national pride, independence, faith, and commitment. The esteemed president stated this to a gathering which was held in the Ministry of Internal Affairs this afternoon to denounce the closing of the doors of education in the southwestern provinces of the country. [passage omitted]

The esteemed president pointed to interference and conspiracies by the spiteful interventionist forces. Concerning their recent conspiracy, he said:

The Taleban, being dependent on foreign intelligence services which in fact have no relevance to the genuine Taleban of the religious colleges, have interrupted the reconstruction movement in the area of education and training that had started in Herat Province, and they have closed the doors of education to the sons of this country in southwestern provinces. I assure you that this black cloud will soon be removed from the sky of our country. The interventionist forces and their mercenaries will soon be thrown out of the country, suffering defeat and disgrace.

The brave sons of this land will not allow these bats of the night to fly over the sky of their homeland. In the near future you will hear the pleasant news of these provinces' liberation. The educational and cultural centers will soon, God willing, be reopened. [passage omitted]

Taleban Asks Rabbani To Quit, Aliens To Leave

BK1509074795 Hong Kong AFP in English 0720 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD, Sept 15 (AFP) — Taleban forces have demanded the resignation of President Borhanoddin Rabbani and have threatened to attack the Afghan capital if he does not step down, the Pakistani daily, the News, reported Friday [15 September].

Diplomats, members of humanitarian organizations and all foreigners should leave Kabul to avoid being caught in possible fighting, the report quoted a Taleban spokesman as saying.

Mohammad Hakim Munib also advised all Kabul residents to leave the city or take shelter in safe locations.

The Taleban, a militia of Islamic religious students whose forces are positioned south of Kabul, set no deadline for Rabbani's resignation.

The minister of defence said an attack on the capital was "imminent."

Only a few embassies, including those of Iran and India, are located in Kabul.

In the last few months a number of humanitarian organizations have set up operations in the capital, during the respite from fighting following the victory of presidential forces against the Taleban near Kabul last March.

Since then, almost no rockets have been launched against Kabul and the nearest frontline is 35 kilometres (20 miles) to the southwest of the capital, near Maydan Shahr.

Rabbani's regime, which after the fall of Herat at the beginning of the month now controls only one large Afghan city, Kabul, has reinforced its defences north of Maydan Shahr.

An estimated 600,000 people live in Kabul.

India

Editorial Views Pakistan's Impact on U.S. Ties

BK1309060895 Madras THE HINDU in English 11 Sep 95 p 12

[Editorial by K.K. Katyal: "Indo-U.S. Ties: a New Phase"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TESTING times are ahead for Indo-U.S. relationship which, though on a stabler footing than ever before in the past, are still not so firmly rooted to withstand pressures and the fallout of irritants. It is important, therefore to take steps to forestall negative influences instead of waiting passively and then doing damage-containment.

Washington cannot be unaware of the repercussions of its Pakistan policy on Indo-U.S. ties. Yet it shows utter insensitivity to New Delhi's concerns, notably those relating to security. True, it is none of India's business to come in the way of the U.S. developing its relations with Pakistan but when this creates problems for India, it should not be blamed for protesting. Apart from the Pakistan factor, Indo-U.S. bilateralism has

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not acquired a balance and mutuality expected after last year's meeting between the Prime Minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, and the U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton.

To take the second point first, the changes in India's economic policies have no doubt attracted new investments from the U.S., apart from pushing up the two-way trade, but there has been no advance in the transfer of technology. On the other hand, there is increased restrictiveness, what with Washington seeing the dangers of defence related misuse even in the supply of innocuous items. The end of the Cold War did not lead to any relaxation contrary to the expectations here. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed during Indira Gandhi's tenure and taken to the next stage by Rajiv Gandhi ceased to have utility long ago.

The joint statement by Mr. Clinton and Mr. Rao, after their meeting in Washington in May 1994, aroused hopes of a "new framework for science and technology agreement that will carry the world's most extensive bilateral science and technology collaborative programme into the 21st Century." India interpreted it as the U.S. willingness to update the old MoU that would pave the way for the transfer of high technology.

Precious little has since happened, despite the unambiguous signals from the top political level. The U.S. commitments to the ongoing co-operation in India's light combat aircraft project remain unchanged but it has not been possible to build upon this specified area. The recent moves in Washington for restoring the blocked military supplies to Pakistan and to make a one-time exception to the Pressler law (under which military and economic aid to Islamabad was barred because of its pursuit of the nuclear weapons programme) came as a major shock here Mr. Clinton had promised to work for the waiver of the Pressler embargo to the Pakistan Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto, during her U.S. visit earlier this year. In pursuance of that objective the U.S. administration first sought to transfer the F-16 fighter aircraft, hoping to kill two birds with one stone, as it were — to please Ms. Bhutto, and to satisfy the aircraft manufacturers. The idea had to be given up because of the strong domestic pressures.

The critics inside Congress and outside, saw the proposal as a blatant violation of the American law which made a mockery of their concerns for nuclear nonproliferation. The move was aborted, but the message for India was loud and clear — that the U.S. administration, in its bid to help Pakistan, could disregard New Delhi's sensitivity.

That these fears were not unfounded became clear when the U.S. came out with the proposal to transfer a $370-million package of arms including P-3C Orions, Harpoons and other deadly missiles — that had been blocked under the Pressler law. The Clinton administration's entire weight in support of the second proposal was evident from the high-pitch canvassing with the members of Congress. It would have liked the proposal to be rushed through. That had not happened primarily for procedural reasons but, in the process, the implications of the move especially its potential for destabilisation in South Asia and the danger of the U.S. exposing itself to the charge of hypocrisy, became clearer. Now for the issues involved in the move and the problems certain to be created by it both for India and the U.S. New Delhi is surprised that the U.S. should have mooted the idea of arms supply to Pakistan after it had been told, at various levels, of India's concern. This did not augur well for the painstaking efforts by both New Delhi and Washington to add new dimensions to bilateral cooperation especially for the interaction in the defence field as envisaged in the "agreed minute" signed during the U.S. Defence Secretary, Mr. William Perry's discussions in New Delhi in January this year.

The Indian delegation, headed by the Defence Secretary, Mr. K.A. Nambiar, is now in Washington for the first round of the dialogue, but whether this opportunity will be used to sort out the irritants remains to be seen.

The proposals for a repeal or waiver of the Pressler law had been the central point of discussions in the last few months — in particular, during the U.S. Under-Secretary for Political Affairs, Mr. Peter Tarnoff's visit here on the eve of Ms. Bhutto's trip to Washington as also the External Affairs Minister. Mr. Pranab Mukherjee's talks with his counterpart in the U.S. India got the impression that there would be no major arms transfers to Pakistan.

Then there were other positive indications: — one, that any change in the Pressler law would not lead to the renewal of the earlier U.S.-Pakistan military relationship and, two, the transfer of new weapons systems to Pakistan was not contemplated and, three, the existing bar on supplies to Pakistan would not be modified in a way to start a new arms race in South Asia.

The latest U.S. proposal does not seem in tune with any of these pointers. There could be two explanations — either the discussions by the two sides were confined to generalities or guiding principles there being no occasion for the U.S. to spell out precisely what it had in mind and for India to respond to specifics, or, Washington does not regard its move as a breach of its assurances. It is a pity that the detailed exchanges on this subject should have gone in vain.

Because of the past experience when the American military supplies to Pakistan were used only against

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India, there should be no doubt about the sharpness of the reaction here, official or non- official, to any new arms transfers to Islamabad. The U.S. mission in India and the Ambassador, Mr. Frank Wisner, despite their well- meaning efforts to impart stability to Indo-American relations, appear to have failed to convey to Washington the intensity of the sentiment in India.

It was amazing — and dangerous — that the American lawmakers should have been told that there was no undue concern in India. The reality is just the opposite and this needs to be taken into account in the interest of the durability and stability in the bilateral field. Washington's approach does not take into account the reality of South Asia in the last 40 years — that sophisticated military equipment supplied to Pakistan had, as already mentioned, been deployed and used only against India. Pakistan had interpreted these supplies as tacit U.S. support — in any case, acquiescence-of their anti-India activities and felt emboldened to undertake adventurist actions, at times leading to war. Is there not a case for the U.S. to pause or ponder whether or not there is a danger of the repetition of this cycle — that, too, at a time when Pakistan's involvement in organising large-scale terrorism in India remains unabated?

The nature and magnitude of Pakistan's interference in Jammu and Kashmir has not been a secret to the U.S. — though it chose not to take that into account while fashioning its policy towards Islamabad. U.S. diplomats and defence experts now in Jammu and Kashmir in connection with the hostage episode have precise details of the operation of militants, including their bases in the Pakistan held part of the State, and have even supplied that information to the Indian authorities. That is the ground reality, and yet Washington chooses to base its Pakistan policy on fiction.

Radio Accuses Pakistan of Backing Afghanistan's Taleban

BK1209135995 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 12 Sep 95

[Commentary by Sunil Narula]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Afghanistan is once again in deep turmoil. Not that it had ever emerged from it since the evacuation of the forces of the former Soviet Union some years ago, but the fall of Herat to the Taleban may herald the beginning of further disintegration of this blighted country, which has seen only war since 1980. A great deal of responsibility for the present mess in Afghanistan can be laid at the door of its neighbor, Pakistan, which has been trying to play the role of a great power and has not stopped interfering even after the Soviet forces left the scene. With the intention of imposing its own writ, or rather a puppet regime in Kabul, it has adopted an aggressive forward policy in Afghanistan which has prevented peace from returning to this unfortunate country, which was already sharply divided along ethnic, religious, and tribal lines.

It is a [word indistinct] fact that the Taleban, who have launched several military campaigns since they suddenly came into prominence last year, are heavily backed by Pakistan. The force, comprising students and others, has been drawn from the madrasas [religious schools] run by Maulana Fazlur Rahman of Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Eslami , the right-wing religious party with close connections with the militant outfit Harkatul Ansar, which is also involved in the militant and terrorist activities the world over, especially in Kashmir. The Taleban, according to Pakistani press, has also received training from Pakistan's ISI [Inter Service Intelligence]. These reports also say that Pakistan Interior Minister Major General Nasirullah Babar played an active role in setting up Taleban. With such connections, it is not surprising that the Taleban has been so successful in Afghanistan.

The Afghan president, Borhanoddin Rabbani, has complained to the United Nations about Pakistan's interference in his country and warned that the flames of war may extend beyond the borders of Afghanistan. That would jeopardize peace and security in the entire region. The Afghan Government has charged that Pakistan has indulged in political deceit and duplicity.

Pakistan has had a long and deep involvement in Afghanistan. Its military thinkers feel that Afghanistan provides the much needed strategic depth vis-a-vis India. When the Soviet forces were in Afghanistan, Pakistan had acted as a frontline state to the West's proxy war there. But after the West lost interest following the withdrawal of Soviet forces and disintegration of the Soviet Union, Pakistan has continued with its forward policy. It was the failure of Golboddin Hekmatyar to defeat Rabbani-Ahmad Shah Mas'ud combine that led Pakistan to raise and train the Taleban militia. Having faced a serious reverse last year, when the Talebans were defeated by Mas'ud forces, Pakistan turned its attention to western Afghanistan and helped Taleban launch a major offensive against Herat. It was this perception of Pakistani involvement that led to the unfortunate attack on its embassy in Kabul in which one person was killed and several others were seriously injured.

The Pakistani focus on western Afghanistan is part of its thought-out plans. Since the Central Asian republics became independent, Pakistan has been seeking to open a trade route through Afghanistan directly to Central

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Asia. Therefore, for military as well as commercial reasons, it visualizes establishing a puppet regime in Kabul as a legitimate aim of its foreign policy. To begin with, the fall of Herat means that the control of the Qandahar-Herat road falls in Taleban hands — a link that will provide a direct access to Central Asia. Pakistan must realize that these developments in Afghanistan have already alarmed its neighbors. But more important, too, Pakistan should not forget get the painful lesson learnt by imperial Britain in the 19th century and Soviet Union in the last decade — that Afghans will not accept subjugation by a foreign power.

Plan for Intelligence Group With Sri Lanka Denied

BK1309162895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi has denied any proposal to set up an intelligence group by India and Sri Lanka to flush out the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] leader, Prabhakaran, from his hideout in Jaffna. This was stated by an official spokesman who was responding to queries on media reports in Sri Lanka suggesting a strong possibility for such a move.

Western Hostages Said Sighted 'Two Weeks Ago'

BK1409130395 Hong Kong AFP in English 1245 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, Sept 14 (AFP) — The Indian authorities said Thursday [14 September] that they had been in touch with the Muslim separatist group holding four western tourists and described the continuing contact as a "positive trend."

Unidentified gunmen meanwhile shot dead the father of the police officer in charge of the Kashmir district where the four westerners were seized more than two months ago, officials said.

In another development, a top Kashmiri Muslim separatist leader said he had received reports that the four hostages abducted by the Muslim separatist group Al-Faran had been sighted in the town of Anantnag two weeks ago.

The leader, who requested anonymity, said he had even visited the house where they had been held, but added he had no idea of their current whereabouts.

A Kashmir government spokesman here said official negotiators had been in touch with the kidnappers of the two Britons, an American and a German late Wednesday.

"Negotiations are a positive trend and we are hopeful things may be solved by peaceful means," spokesman K.B. Jindial told reporters in this Kashmir summer capital.

Al-Faran seized Britons Paul Wells, 23, and Keith Mangan, 33, and American Don Hutchings, 42, on July 4 near the Himalayan trekking resort of Pahalgam in Anantnag district.

Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro, 27, and German Dirk Hasert, 26, were abducted in the same area four days later.

Ostro was beheaded last month and a note found on his body warned that the other four hostages would meet the same fate if the Indian authorities failed to release 15 Muslim rebels from prisons.

The government spokesman accused the Muslim militant group Hizbul Mujahedeen of the late Wednesday slaying of Ghulam Ahmed Shah, the father of Mohammed Amin Shah, the superintendent of police in Anantnag district.

He said Ghulam Ahmed Shah had been shot dead at close range while performing his evening prayers in the family home in the village of Madora.

No group claimed responsibility for the attack and it was not immediately clear if the slaying was linked to the hostage crisis.

Mohammed Amin Shah, the Anantnag district superintendent of police, launched the probe into the abductions of the four tourists in July until the case was taken over by state government authorities here.

He was also involved in securing the release of two Britons kidnapped in the Pahalgam area last year by the Muslim separatist group Harkatul Ansar. The pair were released unharmed after 17 days in captivity.

More than 12,000 people have died since 1989 in a Muslim separatist campaign in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

Three Additional Ministers of State Inducted

BK1409133295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Three more ministers of state have been inducted into the union Council of Ministers. They are Mr. G.Y. Krishnan, Professor P.J. Kurien, and Mr. Suresh Pachori. The deputy minister, Mr. Ramlal Rahi, also took oath as the minister of state. The president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, administered the oath of office and secrecy at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] this evening. The new ministers of state could not take oath yesterday as they were out of station. With this, the strength of the union Council of

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Ministers has gone up to 70. The portfolios are likely to be announced later today.

Finance Minister's 'Questionable Decisions' Viewed

BK1309063195 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 12 Sep 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Creating a Crisis"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Those whom the Finance Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, and others in his Ministry are fond of describing as the "prophets of doom", are no longer the only ones suggesting that the Government is heading towards an irreversible debt trap. They have for company now no less an institution than the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which even Dr Singh would have to admit is not ideologically committed to criticising the Government's economic performance. The RBI's latest annual report does not mince words in indicating that the Government's fiscal stance needs drastic overhauling if this impending debt crisis is to be averted. The implications are obvious: Four years of the rhetoric of fiscal discipline that was trumpeted as the cornerstone of fiscal policy has proved an inadequate substitute for actual action in the right direction. In fact, it is about a decade since the Government first focussed on its fiscal imbalance in the Long-Term Fiscal Policy statement enunciated at the time Mr VP Singh held the job that Dr Singh now holds. Clearly, little has changed since then.

The RBI's observation, that the current situation is the result of the Governments unabated market borrowings despite their rising cost, also raises questions about the Finance Ministry's belief that compelling the Centre to become just another borrower on the market—rather than a privileged one that can determine interest rates—will automatically act as a check on its tendency to borrow. The move to cap the Centre's borrowings from the RBI has neither worked in practice nor has a high interest rate deterred it from approaching the market. The market, it is now clear, cannot tame a borrower which can pass on the burden of repayment to its successors. A borrower operating in a five-year timeframe is immune to the long-term effects of costly borrowings.

The answer must, therefore, lie in the rather more nebulous realm of political will. That alone can ensure a curb on wasteful expenditure on the one hand, and a widening of the tax base on the other—the two most crucial parts of any meaningful prescription for fiscal discipline. Any attempt to keep the fiscal situation in control while allowing expenditure to run-free, apart from shying away from hard decisions on taxation, is doomed to failure. Unfortunately, there is little to indicate that the political will exists either in North Block or in the Government. In fact, with every passing year, Dr Singh has exhibited that his ability to stomach politically expedient but economically questionable decisions has increased. That represents the biggest obstacle to corrective action while there is time.

Article Praises Cancellation of Enron Contract

95ASO474B Jalandhar PUNJAB KESARI in Hindi 13 Aug p 6

[Article by Pratish Nandi: "By Bidding Goodbye to Enron, Joshi and Munde have Allowed India to Raise Her Head with Pride"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] I was born an Indian in independent India therefore I have no experience of the days of the freedom struggle. For me, Mahatma Gandhi was only a na,e until I read his books. [Still] he left a deep impression upon me. The impression was deeper than anyone else's. His political philosophy was completely simple and very impressive. For me Subhash Chandra Bose and Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel were also historical figures but only in history books as if they were not real. That was the reason many Indians of my generation took many years to know who are the real heroes of the struggle for independence.

I could not admire those political men and women that I saw around me. These political leaders were money-hungry, selfish and arrogant. As the years went by they became even more money-hungry, more selfish and extremely arrogant. Even worse was the fact that they could carry on their misdeeds.

Mrs. Indira Gandhi declared emergency and kept up her self indulgent behavior. It was the darkest and the most sinful period in the history of Indian politics. Her political advisor in those days, Mr. Siddharth Shankar Ray has been able to reestablish himself in public life. He is at present our ambassador to the United States, considered the most important political position. Nowadays, very few people remember that he was one of the persons who had advised Mrs. Indira Gandhi to declare emergency in India after the Judgment of the Allhabad highcourt went against Mrs. Gandhi.

Mrs. Gandhi returned to power after spending sometime in the (Political) wilderness and that was to put finishing touches upon works that she had left half finished. The meaning of this was that she could complete the destruction of those institutions that India had developed over hundreds of years.

It was during this time that the Punjab agitation was started and it was during this time that the operation Blue star took place. After her came her son Rajiv

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Gandhi who took India into the 21st century. A very unhappy situation had developed as far as the corruption and the nexus between politicians and the outlaw elements is concerned because the people wanted a change in Rajiv Gandhi's time after the terrifying days of Indira Gandhi's administration. However, he not only disappointed the public but he also brought into the Indian politics a well dressed, English speaking crowd of con men who could drink pegs of whiskey without ice and discuss many problems with whom the people of this country had no connection. His political philosophy was full of make-believe. His dishonesty was even worse. [passage omitted]

Then came Boffors (Scandal) which was, till then, the biggest and the most shameful scandal at the highest level. It made us the laughing stock of the world. Now the whole world knew what the Indian public had realised for some time, to what level the politicians in India can fall. when an indicted businessman from Italy can meet the Prime Minister of India and clinch the contract for guns so that India should lose millions of rupees in commission payments. India's credibility suffered for many years because of this. To the extent that the word 'Boffors' reminds one of giant corruption and commissions in crores. This (corruption) was the accepted practice in our political life. No one thought that this practice will never end from here. It was in this atmosphere that the matter regarding Enron came up.

No one will ever know if Enron paid some one to get the contract for Dabhol power plant. Our political leaders have become very clever in these matters and there is an established greed and corrupt bureaucracy to support them. They prepare the strategy, prepare files and when they feel that they are likely to get caught, they also know how to close all the loopholes to catch them.

This is the reason most of the Chief Ministers make a separate group among the bureaucrats. They surround themselves with the faithful group so that the Chief Minister or such high profile political leaders can be defended. This is the reason every new government makes changes among the civil servents. This way a civil servent serves only the party of his choice. This way the new civil servants act as trojan horse for the new government.

The extent to which the Pawar governmer' used even the retired bureaucrats for the Enron deal so that they could ensure the robbing of the state of Maharashtra and India will be the subject of jokes like those regarding South American countries. I know of a person and his brother in-law who are working for a liquor company. They began to work like the agents of Enron and the owner of the liquor business had to face an inquiry.

The Shivsena and the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] government faced a situation where they could have blamed the whole situation on the earlier administration and allowed Enron to go on doing the work and still keep its government alive. Mr. Sharad Pawar and his group had prepared a net in which the Shivsena-BJP government could have been easily caught. [passage omitted]

In the Indian political vocabulary Enron had left Boffors far behind and people were discussing thousands of crores of rupees of corruption money paid to get such quick approval for the Enron scheme in a record time. These stories were ugly and shameful and like all other stories they had come out from the side streets near the executive building. Certainly, most of the people there knew what went on where and they were afraid for the new government. However, they did not know how to tell their story.

That is why they began to give stories about Enron to the press and to Sharad Pawar's opposition. On the other hand, Mr. Sharad Pawar did not lack enemies within his party. They also joined this battle. There were new stories about the Enron chapter in the newspapers every day.

The BJP and Shivsena made corruption removal their main plank in the election campaign. Fortunately, the people of Maharashtra were not as immoral as Mr. Sharad Pawar had thought them to be. When the proof of the corruption of the Pawar government were presented before them, the people took no time in removing that government.

Mr. Pawar might have thought that if I promised the people to make Bombay like Singapore then common Bombayite would be very happy but actually what happened was completely opposite to his expectations. Majority of Bombayites considered it to be an insult to the proud history of Bombay. People took a sigh of relief when Balasaheb Thackeray announced that the name of this city will be kept Mumbai.

We are proud of our Bombay and we do not want to be another Singapore. An experienced and smart politician like Mr. Sharad Pawar lost sight of the fact that an average Bombayite wants to preserve his culture first and not care for money first.

The time for Dhirubhai Ambani, Harshad Mehta and Mr. Sharad Pawar is gone. Bombayites are looking for some new purpose for themselves. They want some change in all their work. They want a cultural renewal for themselves. They want their self-respect back.

Bombayites are no longer satisfied being called the economic capital of India. The common man of Bombay

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is not happy with this honor. In fact, the average Bombayite wants it to be the cultural capital of India. After all this city is the city of Mr. M.F.Hussain, Mr. B.S. Gaitonde, Mr. Vijay Tendulkar and Ms. Shabana Azmi. This is also Mr. Charles Corea, Mr. Nani Palkhiwala, Mr. Salim Ali, Mr. Mario mirada, Ms. Madhuri Dixit, Mr. R.K. Laxman, Mr. Sunil Dutt, Mr. Julius Rubairo and Mr. Dilip Kumar's city. Among the younger generation, it is also the home of Aamir Khan, Mr. Shachin Tendulkar and Ms. Aishwaraiya Rai. In this city no one cares where you come whether New Delhi or Calcutta.

That is why Enron spent $20 million to educate us. This amount made Boffors the subject of discussion in every home. The same thing has come once again to India in the name of Enron.

To spend such large sums to educate us on Enron is good for us. But why can we not live without Enron. Why ca we not maintain our independent existance as a Nation without Enron? They carried on a campaign to contact the public. They also took help from the public relations experts, Journalists, media agencies so that when they come to India they could easily establish their business.

These people also spread all kinds of stories in the media just for the sake of a few silver coins. They want to mislead people that Enron's leaving will be very bad for the India. To the extent that even the powerful government of the United States also began to threaten us publicly. Leaving aside the diplomatic niceties, even the future of capital investment in India was connected to the future of Enron. Every effort was made to warn our sovereign government and the result of all this was that it delayed for a long time the removal of this bad scheme which should not have been allowed to begin with. Only one week before the cancellation of the scheme a new rumour was spread that after talking to Enron again Mr. Pawar can be rehabilitated. Cancelling this contract at this time will not be helpful any way.

Now the question is where will the company) get the 10,000 million rupees? Are they so generous or for such large kickbacks were they were promised large profits? These are the questions that Enron must answer if it wants to sue the government of Maharashtra. However, I feel that no such action will take place because Enron is unable to do so.

But Enron is lying and we should call their bluff. In fact, if we reexamine all quick action approved schemes and looking at the way all foreign companies are trying to reduce the capital cost of their investments one can estimate that India can save at the minimum Rs 5000 Crores. All this could take place because of the BJP-Shivsena government did not buckle down in the face of the threats and warnings by Enron and issued orders to investigate the deal.

Finally all threats failed and Enron received the treatment it deserved. This way, after so many years we are proud to be Indians again. We did not buckle down in front of threats from Enron. We did not give in to their Blackmail and warnings of disaster.

Now that Enron is cancelled, the sky has not fallen. Our stock market has not crashed. No other country has taken any steps to reverse the flow of capital to our country. No one has made any comments for the government of the United States. The world has understood that India is not a country of beggars or corrupt people which can be bought or threatened.

For this we must thank the Chief Minister of Maharashtra Mr. Manohar Joshi and his deputy Chief Minister Mr. Gopinath Munde who refused to buckle under. No doubt the person who is running the government of Maharashtra by remote control [Reference to Bal Thakeray] also deserves congratulations.

Iran

Prayer Leader Comments on U.S. Role in Bosnia

LD1509101895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In today's Friday prayer sermons in Tehran, Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati [member of the Council of Guardians] expressed his congratulations for the proud victory of our country's war-disabled athletes in international tournaments.

He referred to the address by his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i to the athletes, and said: The guidelines of the eminent leader on this issue must be followed up in a serious manner.

The acting Friday prayer leader of Tehran then referred to the role of the committed Hezbollah forces in the revolution's victory and the safeguarding of the Islamic Republic of Iran system. He said: The Hezbollah has devoted itself to Islam and the revolution. It is precisely this sense of responsibility and devotion which has insured the Islamic Republic system. As much as possible, various responsibilities and tasks should be delegated to the Hezbollah forces.

Ayatollah Jannati, moreover, explained the important role of the clergy in consolidating the foundations of the Islamic Republic of Iran system. He also called for careful attention to the guidelines of the eminent leader

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and underlined the significance of full vigilance against the conspiracies of the enemies.

He continued his remarks by referring to the U.S. proposed plan on Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said: The great satan is only after resolving its own problems. What Washington is really pursuing is to harm and hurt the Muslims and reduce their share [of territory in Bosnia]. The U.S. statesmen should know, however, that this plan, like all other unjust plans, cannot last.

Ayatollah Jannati then called on the Islamic world to make continuous efforts to settle the Bosnian issue and save the Muslim nation of Bosnia.

Report Views Fear of U.S. 'Destroying' Regimes

MM1509141095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Sep 95 p 6

[Report by Safa Ha'eri: "Iran Fears U.S. Move To Topple Regimes in Tehran and Baghdad"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Paris — Sources inside Iran have confirmed that the authorities fear that the United States has started to change from the strategy of dual containment of Iraq and Iran to a more active policy aimed at destroying the two regimes there. The sources said that the ruling clerics have taken stringent new measures to confront any attempt to remove the regime.

The Iranian capital has recently witnessed vigorous political and diplomatic activity, starting with the sermon delivered last Friday [8 September] by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, spiritual guide of the Islamic republic, which was the most severe attack on the United States and Israel. The spiritual guide accused the two countries of "conspiring to destroy Islam, the Islamic system, and the Islamic Revolution" in Iran.

In his sermon, Khamene'i gave "instructions" to the government, the Revolutionary Guard, and the Basij-e militias to "prepare to mercilessly crush any attempt by enemies to undermine the regime."

Observers believe that Khamene'i's speech reflects genuine fears of an imminent U.S. countermove, especially after General Rahim Safawi, Revolutionary Guard commander, announced a twofold increase in the number of the "Ashura" Legions, stationed in Tehran and the main cities. The announcement coincided with talks held in Tehran between a Kuwaiti delegation and another from Iraq. [passage omitted]

Air Force Major Reportedly Defects, Joins MKO

NC1509114495 Paris AFP in English 0939 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Sept 15 (AFP)—An Iranian air force major taking part in a sports event in Italy has defected and joined the opposition Mojahedin-E Khalq Organization [MKO], the group said Friday [15 September].

Major Naser Akbari refused to return to Iran after the world military games in Rome that began on September 5, the MKO said in a statement received in Nicosia.

The group quoted Akbari as saying "the repression prevailing in Iran is so much that any form of silence against the ruthless rulers contradicts humanity and patriotism."

The MKO said they received a letter from Akbari announcing his decision to defect and his support for their group.

"Any other solution but full fledged struggle against the inhuman regime is inconceivable," Akbari said. "The majority of honorable people in Iran are impatiently counting the days for the overthrow of the regime."

The MKO, the Islamic republic of Iran's main armed opposition, is based in Iraq.

Iraqi Delegation Signs Memorandum, Departs 15 Sep

LD1509100695 Tehran IRNA in English 0915 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sep 15 (IRNA) — The Iraqi foreign ministry team left for Baghdad today after a six-day visit during which talks were held with senior Iranian officials and a memorandum of understanding was signed between the two countries.

The memorandum was signed by the head of the Iraqi delegation, First Deputy Foreign Minister Sa'd 'Abdal-Majid al-Faisal, and Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab-African Affairs, Husayn Shaykh ol-Eslam.

According to the Iranian foreign ministry, talks between al- Faisal and Shaykh ol-Eslam centred on progress made between the two countries on tracing the bodies of soldiers killed in action during the Iraqi war (1980-88), more understanding on ways to exchange POWs and the issues of refugees and exiles.

Al-Faisal during his stay in Tehran also met Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to discuss bilateral relations and issues pertaining to the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 598.

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The two stressed improvement of bilateral ties.

PUK Leader Comments on Role in Ending Clashes

LD1509101595 Tehran IRNA in English 0911 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, Sept. 15, IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran could play an effective role in the settlement of Kurdish infighting in northern Iraq, said Jalal Talabani the leader of Iraq's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

In an interview with IRNA here last night, Talabani outlined the situation in the western protected parts of northern Iraq, and the U.S.-sponsored talks in Ireland between PUK and its main rival the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), and expressed readiness to accept any mediation effort to put an end to the internal conflicts of Iraqi Kurds.

According to him at least 700 people from different groups have been killed in the inter-Kurdish fighting in the western protected northern part of Iraq over the past year.

Talabani, however, discounted as "baseless" the earlier media reports which claimed that over 2000 people have been killed in the frequent clashes.

He added that at the moment the factional conflicts have relatively diminished, especially in the central parts, while fierce fighting continues to rage between the Turkish dissident Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) and the Masud Barzani's KDP in the northern Dohuk Province, preparing fertile ground for foreign intervention.

He maintained that at present the three northern [words indistinct] and Dohuk, as well as some parts of Kirkuk Province are under [word indistinct] control.

Talabani also called for further efforts by opposition Islamic and national groups for establishment of a democratic system in Iraq.

Lebanon's Junblatt Cited on Bilateral Cooperation

NC1509085195 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 25 Aug 95 p 15

["Exclusive" interview with Walid Junblatt, PSP leader and minister for refugees in Lebanon, by unidentified correspondent "during his visit last week to Tehran"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [ETTELA'AT] What are the most important areas of cooperation between Iran and Lebanon?

[Junblatt] Iran is a large country and has vast economic resources. I believe there can be extensive bilateral cooperation, especially now, during Lebanon's reconstruction.

Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani declared his interest in cooperating with the Lebanese Government on the return of the Lebanese refugees to their hearths and homes. This is an important point in Iran-Lebanon cooperation.

As for other issues, such as cooperation in business and commerce, there is much scope, but this is not my area of expertise.

[ETTELA'AT] What was the outcome of your visit to Iran and your meetings with Iranian officials?

[Junblatt] The results were wonderful. Relations involving the Islamic Republic of Iran and the PSP [Progressive Socialist Party] as well as the Druze clan are excellent. There are cultural plans and we will focus our attention on implementing these.

In the latest phase of this cooperation we have even made headway in constructing Druze centers and institutes in Lebanon and we hope to gradually set up institutions of higher learning and colleges with the cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

Turkmenistan, Ukrainian Accords To Bring 'New Era'

NC1509143395 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Sep 95 p 2

[Editorial: "Trilateral Economic Links to Consolidate Regional Peace, Stability"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati is presently in Ashgabat to finalize accords on trilateral cooperation between Iran, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine. The agreements reached on cooperation in the areas of fuel, commerce, banking, and transport will usher in a new era in regional ties.

Based on the agreements each of the three countries undertakes to provide the needs of the other two countries. Turkmenistan supplies natural gas and petroleum to Ukraine, so that Ukraine will provide needed commodities and services to Iran, and Iran will offer goods and expertise to Turkmenistan.

The new mechanism, which is a system of barter through the exchange of commodities and services, will minimize the role of non- regional economies, reducing foreign intervention in the region.

Under the former Soviet Union and its state-run economy, the Kremlin achieved unity and integrity of the union through adopting and implementing the "dependency policy" among the union's republics. In order

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to survive, every republic needed the support of other republics. Such a policy proved to be effective, especially in quelling the unrest that broke out occasionally at some parts of the vast former union.

However, the collapse of the former Soviet Union and the outbreak of border disputes between some Central Asian countries undermined economic stability and prosperity of the republics.

The above-mentioned accords, aimed to promote tripartite barter, will lay the groundwork for improving the economic conditions of the three countries through eliminating barriers to their economic prosperity.

Although, nowadays, there are no adherents to the belief that economics is the foundation of all social aspects, the significant role of such agreements in consolidating regional peace and stability cannot be denied.

It is hoped that the fruitful trilateral accord will set an example for further regional ties and cooperation.

Commentary Addresses Future Problems for Kazakhstan

NC0909144395 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 2 Sep 95 p 12

[Commentary by Ruzbeh Bu-ol Hari: "The Kazakhstan Elections and Nazarbayev's Problems"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The people of Kazakhstan voted affirmative in the referendum on the country's draft Constitution last Wednesday [30 August]. According to the new Constitution, the president's powers will be increased and the parliament will have no power to control his duties. In addition, a quorum of two-thirds of the deputies must vote against him if he is to be removed from power.

The people of Kazakhstan are going to experiment with a new Constitution after, as the country's history indicates, Nazarbayev has had four years of absolute control over the country.

Nazarbayev called the referendum on the draft Constitution after dissolving the parliament, which opposed his policies; and in the recent months he governed solely by decree. He called a referendum in April and got mass support for the extension of his presidential term until the year 2000. Despite this, the Kazakh president wants to give the impression that there is democracy in his country.

The two factors that contributed to the success of Nazarbayev's policies are:

1. Due to centuries of historical precedent in the Central Asian countries, the people in the region have become accustomed to personal rule. During the era of the former Soviet Union this system was further exacerbated due to the practice of decisionmaking at the center enforced by Stalin. This practice has enabled the leaders of the four countries of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan to remain in power despite upheavals.

2. The Central Asian countries' need to protect their independence and distance themselves from Russia has resulted in the leaders of the four aforementioned states being portrayed as heroes who have been able to preserve the independence of their countries. They portray the conditions in their countries in such a way to their people that it eliminates any danger of their removal amid the newly-acquired political independence.

In addition, Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan, Askar Akayev of Kyrgyzstan, and Saparmurad Niyazov of Turkmenistan have in various ways prevented the opposition in their respective countries from consolidating. Thus they have paved the way for the success of their policies and economic reforms. (It may be mentioned that this is in emulation of the model used for development in the Far Eastern countries.)

Now that Nazarbayev is quite complacent regarding all the legal matters pertaining to the implementation of his policies, issues such as the discontent with Almaty's policy by the Russian minority—comprising 38 percent of the population—and other minorities such as the Germans and the Ukrainians; the economic disarray and lack of necessary resources have made him apprehensive in view of the extensive activities of opposition groups and factions in Kazakhstan. In addition, the close proximity of Kazakhstan to Russia has and will force Almaty to keep Moscow's interests in mind. These are problems that the Kazakh president will have to grapple with.

Daily Notes Growing Importance of Caspian Sea

LD1409101095 Tehran IRNA in English 0922 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 14, IRNA — The importance of the Caspian Sea is rapidly growing along with differences over the legal status of the largest body of inland water in the world, wrote a morning daily Thursday [14 September].

The settlement of the legal status on the basis of common ownership will guarantee the safety of the investments of both foreign and regional countries for the development of the natural resources of the Caspian Sea, said IRAN NEWS in its editorial.

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"If the legal aspect is not settled, Caspian Sea projects could cause environmental disasters," the daily added.

The differences over the legal status of the largest body of inland water in the world grew further after the disintegration of the Soviet Union which resulted in three more beneficiaries entitled to share in the Caspian Sea natural resources, it stressed.

Iran, Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan are the littoral states of the 440,000 square kilometers of salt water with vast oil deposits, the editorial said.

Iran and the former Soviet Union generally considered the Caspian Sea as a source of income, it said, adding that there were disagreements between Moscow and Tehran, but none were as great as those existing today.

"Today's disagreements emerged after countries outside the region began exploiting the natural resources of the sea without considering all its aspects and ramifications," it reiterated.

The Caspian Sea has political, economic, and environmental aspects which, if not addressed, could be disastrous for the entire region, the artile added.

It noted that commercial activities such as shipping and fishing by the littoral states, without resolving the legal status of the Caspian Sea may not cause serious damage, but there will be considerable problems when the offshore natural resources such as crude oil and natural gas are exploited.

Referring to Russian objections towards the contracts worth dlrs. 8 billion signed between the Azerbaijan Republic and a consortium of Western firms on september 20, 1994, the paper said that similar objections were voiced by other littoral states including the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Commenting on Iran's suggestion over meeting of all littoral states' representatives in Tehran, it stressed that the Caspian is a lake, an enclosed sea, which unlike other seas, is not subject to international laws.

"All ivestments, regardless of their origin, will be at great risk unless the legal regime of the world's largest inland body of warter is settled," the daily concluded.

Unemployment Rate Falls 4.1% in 5-Year Plan

LD1409141395 Tehran IRNA in English
1405 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Shahr-e Kord, Chahar Mahal-Bakhtiari Prov., Sept. 14, IRNA — Unemployment rate fell by 4.1 percent during the first five-year economic, social and cutural development plan (1989-1993).

Deputy labor and social affairs minister for social and parliamentary affairs Habib 'Ajayebi, said here on Thursday [14 September] that by the end of the plan unemployment rate was 11.41 percent.

'Ajayebi said that the fall in unemployment rate was 1.6 percent more than the target set for the first development plan.

Advisor Comments on Status of Resolution 598

95LA0344A Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
18 July 95 p 7

[Report on interview with 'Ali Khorram, senior adviser to the minister of foreign affairs, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Note—Seven years have passed since the acceptance of Resolution 598, but still some parts of this resolution have not been fully implemented. In order to find the reasons and operative factors behind the failure to fully implement the resolution, we found it necessary to interview the related officials. Unfortunately, the charge d'affaires of Iraq in Iran, despite our insistence and frequent contacts, did not agree to speak and respond to the questions. Therefore, here we will only present the views of the Iranian officials for our readers. 'Ali Khorram, the senior advisor to the minister of foreign affairs, responded to our questions in connection with the steps taken regarding the remaining substance of Resolution 598 and the future of Iran-Iraq relations. You will read the results of this interview.**

Political Service

[KEYHAN] Seven years have passed since the Islamic Republic of Iran accepted the resolution, but still, some of the paragraphs of the resolution have not been fully implemented. What is the reason for the failure to fully implement Resolution 598, especially Paragraph 3, in connection with the issue of prisoners of war?

[Khorram] In connection with Paragraph 3, according to Article 118 of the Geneva Convention, after accepting a cease-fire, the two hostile countries must exchange prisoners. After accepting the resolution, Iran and Iraq conducted direct and indirect negotiations for two years, until Mordad 1369 [23 July-23 August 1990]. With the efforts of the two countries, most of the prisoners were released in a month-long process. At that time, about 40,000 Iranian prisoners and 43,000 Iraqi prisoners were released. After this phase, due to the start of the Persian Gulf crisis, this process stopped. Since 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992], even though relations between the two countries have not been severed, in the area

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of prisoners no success has been achieved, and this problem is due to the lack of trust between the two sides. We proposed that a larger number of Iraqi prisoners be released in return for a smaller number of Iranian prisoners, but in practice not much success was gained.

In recent negotiations with Iraqi officials, once again, Iran proposed that Iraq respond to the reasons and evidence of claims and proof by Iranians about the presence of approximately 4,000 prisoners in Iraq.

[KEYHAN] In your statements, you mentioned lack of mutual trust. What do you consider as the main reason? Do you not think that this lack of trust is more on the part of the Iranian delegation than the Iraqi, because our country was the victim of eight years of aggression by Iraqi forces?

[Khorram] Undoubtedly, the main reason for this distrust has been the eight-year war. After the war, too, numerous factors contributed to the lack of trust. Now, in order to solve the problem of the prisoners, we need more mutual trust.

[KEYHAN] With regard to solving the problem of prisoners, usually an international organization must oversee the implementation and also verify the number of prisoners of the two countries. In this connection, what is the opinion of the World Red Cross?

[Khorram] The Red Cross has announced the official position of Iraq and believes that the Iranian side has no prisoners in Iraq. Iran has presented documents regarding several thousand Iranian prisoners in Iraq, but still it has not reached a phase for the Red Cross to get involved.

[KEYHAN] In presenting the statistics on Iranian prisoners in Iraq, differences in figures are seen even among the officials of the country. While some believe that there are no prisoners in Iraq, others speak of the presence of several thousand prisoners. What is the source of this discrepancy?

[Khorram] There is no doubt about the presence of Iranian prisoners in Iraq, but regarding their number, there are differences of opinion. This problem can be solved if the Iraqi authorities respond to our requests and evidence. Also, sometimes one official states the number of prisoners and the missing together, and sometimes they are mentioned separately. This is the reason for the discrepancy in these figures.

[KEYHAN] According to Resolution 598, are the two sides obliged to exchange all prisoners or is it the exchange of one prisoner for another? Has any agreement been reached in this regard?

[Khorram] No explanation has been given in Resolution 598, but according to the Vienna Convention, which governs the process of releasing prisoners, it is explicit that after the establishment of total cease-fire, all prisoners must be exchanged. Within the framework of this convention, all Iranian and Iraqi prisoners must be exchanged under the supervision of the Red Cross.

[KEYHAN] In the statements of the officials, the issue of solving the problem of the prisoners is always mentioned as the basis for improving relations between Iran and Iraq. Is this still valid?

[Khorram] The most important issue that has cast its shadow over the Iran-Iraq relationship is solving the problem of prisoners and those missing. The total resolution of the problem of the prisoners is a humanitarian issue that must be addressed as soon as possible. The Iranian officials are extremely concerned about the status of the prisoners and the missing.

Of course, this problem has existed for all countries that have been at war. Even Korea is still involved in the problem of the missing and prisoners of 45 years ago.

We are responsible for finding even one prisoner who has put on a combat uniform for the dignity and honor of this country and taking the necessary steps to return him to the arms of his family. The Islamic Republic of Iran is a religious country.

According to our beliefs, rescuing one human being is no different than rescuing a whole society.

[KEYHAN] In the news and reports sent by Iran and Iraq to the United Nations, thousands of instances of violations of the cease-fire have been reported. What is the precise number of these cases and what is the reason? Does this problem mean a failure to fully implement Paragraph 1 of the resolution, regarding the stopping of military operations?

[Khorram] The stopping of military operations, according to Resolution 598, means the stopping of conventional and official operations. This was done after one month, on 28 Mordad 1367 [19 August 1988], but the forces of the two countries are stationed near the border.

According to the agreements, the Iranian and Iraqi forces are located 1 km from the border, inside their own territory, and this was verified by the United Nations, but afterward, according to the cease-fire regulations, if anyone enters this buffer zone (a 2 km corridor along 1,240 km of border) or if trenches are built or heavy weapons are stationed, this means a violation of the cease-fire. For this reason, several thousand instances

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of cease-fire violations have occurred in this sense that have been reported to the United Nations.

[KEYHAN] But some of the instances are attacks on the border villages and people.

[Khorram] A small percentage also includes such instances. The Iraqi forces and the Hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] have crossed this buffer corridor and attacked equipment and individuals, and this has been reported.

[KEYHAN] In connection with the implemental phases of Paragraph 7 of the resolution, regarding the determination of the damages and the issue of reconstruction, what steps have been taken so far?

[Khorram] According to the resolution, the United Nations is to send a team to determine the level of damages to the two countries. In 1990 and 1991, a delegation headed by the deputy general secretary traveled to Iran several times and, visiting the border regions and the war-stricken cities, determined the damages and presented a report to the general secretary and the Security Council. Based on this report, direct damages to the Islamic Republic are $99 billion and indirect damages are $150 billion. The estimation of the Iranian officials exceed this amount, but we respected the UN formula and accepted it.

[KEYHAN] In connection with determining the damages for the Iraqi side, what steps are being taken?

[Khorram] The work of the UN delegation in Iraq coincided with the invasion of the allied forces on Iraq, and because the damages inflicted by the allied forces on Iraq are far more widespread and more devastating than those in the Iran-Iraq war, the UN delegation has not been able to determine and separate the damages.

[KEYHAN] Considering that the level of damages was determined several years ago, normally, Iraq would be responsible for paying. What mechanism has been anticipated in the resolution for compensating for the damages?

[Khorram] Considering that Iraq started the war, Iraq is also responsible for paying the damages, but in Resolution 598, no formula is anticipated regarding how the damages are to be paid. Paragraph 6 mentioned determining the aggressor, but like the resolutions of the Persian Gulf crisis, the procedures for the payment of damages have not been determined.

[KEYHAN] This issue demonstrates the unacceptable nature and weakness of the resolution. Is this not the result of the double standards of the Security Council regarding the problems in the world?

[Khorram] That is certainly so. The permanent and temporary members of the Security Council did not have good relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, but in connection with the Persian Gulf war, the same members are involved and had influence, and hence they determined the process of payments for damages as well.

[KEYHAN] At the present time, what mechanism has been decided on for the payment of damages?

[Khorram] The issue concerns the high-ranking officials of the country deciding in what manner, when, and how they should pursue this matter.

[KEYHAN] In your negotiations with the Iraqi side, has there been any talk about the procedures for paying damages?

[Khorram] No.

[KEYHAN] In your opinion, is one of the reasons for the failure to fully implement the resolution not the change in the structure of world power? The world structure in 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989] was quite different from what it is today. As you know, since the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the United Nations has in fact been a tool in the hands of the Western countries.

[Khorram] Almost all of the articles of Resolution 598 have been implemented in some way, and what remains concerns the prisoners, the postponed issues of the two countries, and regional security.

[KEYHAN] Paragraph 8 of the resolution concerns the security of the Persian Gulf, which is perhaps one of the most important paragraphs, and has not been implemented so far. Also, the problem that is raised here is, at the present, what is the situation governing the relations between Iran and Iraq, because by accepting the resolution and failing to fully implement it, in fact, the condition of neither peace nor war governs relations.

[Khorram] In legal terms, at the present, Iran and Iraq are not in a state of open hostility, and the cease-fire is in place, but they have not yet returned to complete peace, which depends on the full implementation of the resolution.

[KEYHAN] What negotiations have so far been conducted with the involved sides regarding the issue of the security of the Persian Gulf?

[Khorram] In connection with the Persian Gulf security issue, the Persian Gulf countries went the wrong way and were pulled toward the great powers. Today Iraq, because it has instigated two violent wars, is suspect. Iraq implicitly proposes some sort of cooperation. Iran

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has no concern about the presence of Iraq in the regional security plan because we have no defense problem, but because the six countries in the Persian Gulf are not capable of defense, they are worried. We hope Iraq will show the kind of behavior that will eliminate doubt and suspicion, and the Persian Gulf countries instead of leaning toward powerful countries will move toward regional security arrangements in order for all countries to be able to engage in constructiveness in peace and stability.

[KEYHAN] It was reported in the news that in the negotiations of the Iranian and Iraqi delegations, the issue concerning the return of the head of the Hypocrites has been raised. Could you comment on this issue and what was the reaction?

[Khorram] Regarding such reports, it must be said that the Hypocrites are not the main important factor in the relations between Iran and Iraq, but because of the aggravating actions of this group in dealing with the nation, like all groups that act contrary to the national interests in spying, ultimately, they are condemned to fail. The Iraqis, in the final analysis, do not respect them. They use them as a tool, and whenever there is no need for them, they will throw them away like a piece of crumpled paper.

[KEYHAN] What will be the attitude of the Islamic Republic of Iran toward the Hypocrites who return?

[Khorram] The Islamic Republic of Iran has frequently announced amnesty and asked them to return, give a pledge, and be with their families. During recent years, a number of them have returned and are living normally with their families.

[KEYHAN] Every once in a while, there is propaganda and news manipulation by the officials in Baghdad in connection with the Iraqi airplanes in Iran. What negotiations have taken place in this connection?

[Khorram] The issue of the Iraqi airplanes relates to the second Persian Gulf war. In the course of the past years, we have not been able to close the book on the first war of the Persian Gulf.

The issue of the Iraqi airplanes is an issue within the framework of the Security Council resolution and the embargo committees and cannot be negotiated until the embargo is lifted.

At an appropriate time, the national officials will make a decision on how to deal with this issue. In fact, the kind of relations between Iran and Iraq can provide the grounds for examination of this issue. In this connection, our relations have not yet reached a level for this issue to be discussed.

[KEYHAN] Does the presence of the Turkish forces in northern Iraq not result in the violation of the rule and the territorial integrity of the country?

[Khorram] The presence of any foreign force in northern Iraq violates the territorial integrity of Iraq. Iran has announced its position on this issue, and the president in a telephone conversation with Demirel has raised this issue and defended the territorial integrity of Iran. On the other hand, after the conflicts of the Kurds in northern Iraq, from 1370, beyond the 36th parallel has been a prohibited region for Iraq, and since that time, Iraq has been incapable of imposing its rule in the northern part of its country. This inability has brought for Iraq the violation of its rule and territorial integrity and for the neighboring countries, disturbances, instability, and the infiltration of terrorism from northern Iraq over the borders to the three countries. This issue was examined in the trilateral assembly of Iran, Syria, and Turkey. As long as Iraq does not have the power to impose rule in the northern part of its country, this assembly will make an effort to prevent the infiltration of terrorism and establish peace and stability. Among these actions, we can mention the peaceful measures of Iran to establish an agreement among the Kurdish groups in northern Iraq. The two groups of Talebani and Barezani have also recently asked Iran to mediate, which will result in the establishment of peace and stability in the region. Our efforts are to preserve this situation.

[KEYHAN] Considering the presence of foreign forces in Iraq and the existence of some internal unrest, what do you predict for the future of the Iraqi Government?

[Khorram] Northern Iraq will in any case return to Iraq. Iran strongly supports the territorial integrity of Iraq.

Any government that is in power in Iraq must strive to preserve the territorial integrity of Iraq and establish peace and stability.

No group will succeed in establishing a government in northern Iraq. History has also shown that individuals take arms for a while and have encountered the four countries of Iran, Syria, Turkey, and Iraq, and after a while these problems have subsided.

[KEYHAN] In the negotiations between the Iraqi and Iranian delegations, has there been any talk about the Iranian citizens and the religious scholars who are in prison?

[Khorram] Since 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991], there have been continuous negotiations about the Islamic scholars, both Iranians and non-Iranians, and we have demanded their release from prison. Also, Iran demands the preservation of the status of the Islamic scholars residing in Iraq. Of course, the door to these

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negotiations is not closed, and we hope we will come to an understanding within the framework of Paragraph 4 of the resolution, which concerns postponed issues.

[KEYHAN] Have there been negotiations about the Shiites in southern Iran?

[Khorram] The Shiites in the south are tribes who live in the wetlands of Iraq and have always had conflicts with the central government. We think that any government that comes to power in Baghdad, to preserve its territorial integrity, will be obliged to have good relations with the Kurds and the Sunnis. Sooner or later, the government of Baghdad will become friendly with the Shiites in the south. Contrary to Iraq, that in the past had always tried to interfere in the internal affairs of Iran and incite the Sunnis and the Arab minority to rebel against the central government, the Islamic Republic of Iran has no such belief and believes that, within the framework of the Iraqi borders, all races and groups must live in peace and tranquillity.

[KEYHAN] When will Dr. Velayati's visit to Iraq take place?

[Khorram] At the present time, Iran is awaiting Iraq's response to several points regarding the issue of the prisoners. As soon as we receive a response, we are prepared to send a delegation to Baghdad.

[KEYHAN] What is the present level of relations between the two countries and how do you evaluate the future of the relations?

[Khorram] The present relations between the two countries are at the level of charge d'affaires, and now we are suspending the hostilities. A border and good neighbor agreement has also been signed between the two countries. If this pledged declaration by Iraq is accompanied by action, certainly the two countries will have good relations; if Baghdad tries to violate it, there will certainly be conflicts. Of course, the Iraqis have had an experience with the Iranian soldiers and combatants on the battle scene. We hope that such a problem will never occur between the two countries and after two wars they will engage in reconstructing their countries in peace.

Evidence is also seen in the Iraqis that they are weary of the past history and wish to live in a climate of friendship with Iranians and have normal relations with Iran so that Iranian and Iraqi citizens can travel freely and so that good relations between the two countries can be resumed. Iran and Iraq have many points in common, and there are no grounds for conflict unless there is a misjudgment. Iraq has experienced it in the past, and there is no need to experience it again.

[KEYHAN] Unfortunately, seven years after Resolution 598 was accepted, Paragraph 3 of the resolution regarding full exchange of prisoners has still not been implemented. What is the reason for this, and what steps have been taken recently in this connection?

[Khorram] The presence of a significant number of Iranian prisoners in Iraq is the most important obstacle to the expansion of relations between Iran and Iraq. Unfortunately, failure to solve the problem of the prisoners is an obstacle on this course.

In the negotiations, the Iranian delegation proposed the presentation of the number of prisoners of the two countries and the establishment of two committees to examine the status of the missing and send for bodies. We are awaiting the response by the Iraqi side. If there is a positive response in this regard on the part of the Iraqis, an effective and positive step in solving the issue of the prisoners and eliminating the obstacles to the expansion of relations between the two countries will have been taken.

[KEYHAN] What has the Iranian delegation proposed to the Iraqi side in this connection?

[Khorram] The Iranian proposal for a complete solution to the issue of prisoners includes determining the situation regarding the prisoners on both sides, investigating the missing, and searching to find the bodies of the missing.

At various junctures, Iran has presented evidence to the Red Cross and the Iraqi side, and if an acceptable response is received from the Iraqi side, it will present further evidence. Unfortunately, no appropriate response has yet been received. Hence, the total amount of evidence available has not been presented to the Iraqi side.

[KEYHAN] What is the reason for the existence of such a climate over the negotiations of the Iranian and Iraqi delegations?

[Khorram] The Iraqi side must have realized that the issue of the prisoners is not an issue to be used as political leverage. The issue of the prisoners is a humanitarian issue. A large number of families of prisoners on both sides are suffering as a result of this problem. This is the view of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the issue of prisoners, which it has announced frequently to the Iraqi side. It is hard to say how the Iraqi side views the issue.

[KEYHAN] Usually an international organization must oversee the exchange of prisoners. What is the opinion of the International Red Cross regarding the number of Iranian prisoners in Iraq?

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[Khorram] Unfortunately, because of the policy of the Iraqi Government during the war, the Red Cross has been unable to register all the Iranian prisoners in Iraq. This organization, due to certain legal viewpoints, sees itself as confined to supporting that number [as published]. A cursory glance shows us that Iraq, up to the end of the war, had registered about 13,000 prisoners. By the time of the start of the prisoner exchange, about 19,000 prisoners were registered, whereas about 38,000 Iranian prisoners were returned. This shows that a high percentage of Iranian prisoners in Iraq were unregistered prisoners. This problem—that is, the failure to register the Iranian prisoners—has caused problems in the actions of the Red Cross in this connection.

In our opinion, the Red Cross has not performed its legal duty vis-a-vis the Iranian prisoners in Iraq.

[KEYHAN] Various figures are presented on the number of prisoners. For how many prisoners has the Iranian delegation offered documents and evidence, and what is the probable number of Iranian prisoners in Iraq?

[Khorram] Considering the attitude of the Iraqi Government, the responsibility for presenting the figures on the Iranian prisoners in Iraq is a very complex issue.

So far, we have placed a significant amount of documentation and evidence at the disposal of the Red Cross and the Iraqi side, and it has been mentioned constantly that these documents do not show the total number of our missing and prisoners in Iraq. Rather, they are a starting point. Still, an appropriate situation for presenting more documents has not been provided by the Iraqi side.

[KEYHAN] Are there any positive signs and bright spots for fully solving the problem of the prisoners, and can you give any good news to the families of the prisoners?

[Khorram] Fortunately, in the past few months more positive signs of interest on the part of the Iraqi Government to decide on a more reasonable policy on the prisoners have been received, and there is a possibility of making progress in the negotiations.

[KEYHAN] Considering that the United Nations has determined the aggressor and also estimated the level of damages, no action has been taken so far with regard to providing the necessary resources for reconstruction. What is the root of this problem?

[Khorram] The two issues of determining the aggressor and estimating the damages of both sides and providing the necessary resources for reconstruction have been mentioned in Resolution 598. The determination of the aggressor was based on Paragraph 6 of the resolution, and the secretary general of the United Nations, presenting a report to the Security Council, determined that the Iraqi regime was the aggressor. This issue has legal ramifications that must be followed up.

Also, the UN delegation has studied the direct damages from the war. While the estimates of the national officials include all damages from the war, in fact, the United Nations has omitted the indirect and military damages and has estimated them to be $100 billion, even though they have not been kind in this regard and the total cost of replacement, considering the time factor, has not been estimated.

With regard to Paragraph 7, Section 2, which refers to the necessity to mobilize international resources for reconstruction, unfortunately, due to U.S. pressures, no action has been taken in the United Nations for implementation, which requires the cooperation of the countries. Iran has regularly pursued this issue. Butrus Butrus-Ghali also has appointed a special representative to carry out this paragraph, but unfortunately this representative has also been unable to receive the necessary resources from the international monetary and financial organizations and developed, able countries. We expect the UN secretary general to pursue this matter and pay more attention to it. Of course, the issue of the failure to pay attention to Paragraph 7 of the resolution is perhaps due to the widespread activities of the United Nations in the crisis region, but of course, this issue cannot be justified.

[KEYHAN] Of course, the United Nations accomplishes things wherever it wants to. For instance, in the Persian Gulf crisis, which was after the imposed war, providing the necessary resources for compensating for the damages was even anticipated. In your opinion, is lack of an implemental mechanism a weakness of Resolution 598?

[Khorram] There is no doubt that Resolution 598, compared to Resolutions 661 and 678, is not a resolution that has clearly projected resources.

For instance, Resolution 582, which for the first time spoke about the occurrence of aggression, was ratified six years after the Iran-Iraq war, whereas Resolution 660 concerning Kuwait, was ratified six hours after the occurrence of the aggression. These clear and incomprehensible differences indicate the difference in the attitude of the United Nations on the basis of the political stance of the countries. Some believed that the crisis in Kuwait was the start of a new period in the activities of the United Nations. They should look at Bosnia and compare the tragic difference in the attitude of the United Nations toward the Persian Gulf crisis and Bosnia. Now, the safe zones in Bosnia have fallen or are about to fall, and the United Nations has had prior knowledge of it, but it has not taken any steps.

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This shows that the suggestion that since the Persian Gulf war the United Nations has started a new phase of activities is wrong.

The United Nations can play a more important role in the new international system, which is in transition, but the supposition that arose with the crisis of Kuwait that the United Nations can gain a global role was a wrong supposition.

[KEYHAN] What steps have been taken with regard to Paragraph 8 of Resolution 598 in connection with the issue of Persian Gulf security?

[Khorram] This paragraph has not been implemented yet. The security of the Persian Gulf region has always been noted by Iran, and in 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987] at the height of the imposed war, when the regime of Iraq, through the oil tanker war, was trying to bring the war to the Persian Gulf, Iran emphasized the creation of a security system for the Persian Gulf. Iran always considers the presence of foreign fleets and foreign powers among the contributing factors to the disruption of the security of the Persian Gulf. Its obvious example is the crash of the air bus of the Islamic Republic.

Of course, the existence of border conflicts on the southern coast of the Persian Gulf can be a factor in the disturbance in the region (such as the difference between Iraq and Kuwait), but there are greater possibilities for cooperation in all directions among the Persian Gulf countries. Iran has always offered proposals in connection with the security of the region, the basis of which are respect for international rights and relations, cooperation instead of rivalry, and the participation of all countries, but we believe that the only way to achieve security in the region is collective participation. Paragraph 8 of the resolution is also related to this.

[KEYHAN] What steps has the United Nations taken toward implementing this paragraph?

[Khorram] The United Nations has not taken any significant steps.

[KEYHAN] Has the issue of the international embargo on Iraq caused the postponement of implementing Paragraph 8 of the resolution?

[Khorram] Perhaps one of the defenses of the United Nations in this regard is the issue of Iraq. We believe no security system should be formed excluding one country; it must include all the countries in the region.

Nepal

New Coalition's Policy Statement Reported

BK1309120195 Kathmandu THE KATHMANDU POST in English 12 Sep 95

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kathmandu — The Nepali Congress, Rashtriya Prajatantra Party and Nepal Sadbhavana Party on Monday [11 September] issued a joint policy statement, declaring that they have agreed to form a coalition government to work for national welfare on the basis of mutual understanding.

The statement signed by the respective parliamentary party chiefs of the three parties — Sher Bahadur Deuba, Lokendra Bahadur Chand and Gajendra Narayan Singh; said they would work for balanced foreign policy and maintain national harmony through equal opportunity to all citizens. We respect the achievements of the 1990 popular movement and our commitment to multiparty democracy, constitutional monarchy, parliamentary system and independent judiciary will remain unflinching, the statement said.

Criticizing the communist party government for working in contravention with constitution and parliamentary norms, the statement said the coalition government would give due prominence to the voice of the opposition.

Human rights, human values and individual freedom will be kept unrestrained. Government media will be developed as national-level communications media and efforts will be made for their autonomy and impartiality, the statement said. It said the coalition cabinet will remain committed to the dignity and freedom of the press.

Slamming the UML [United Marxist-Leninist] government's financial policy as indisciplined and irresponsible, the coalition partners said they would strive to heal the wounds of the economy. They said market economy and private sector would be promoted and poverty alleviation be given top priority.

On the water resource front, the three parties have agreed to expedite bilateral, regional as well as multilateral cooperation.

Besides, programmes will be launched to provide citizenship certificates to all Nepalese without inconvenience, and uplift the living standard of underprivileged sections of the society, including those from the Terai region.

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Prime Minister's Comments on Priorities Reported

BK1409112995 Kathmandu THE KATHMANDU POST in English 13 Sep 95

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kathmandu — The newly installed coalition government has no intention of indulging in political vendetta against the UML [United Marxist-Leninist], Prime Minister [PM] Sher Bahadur Deuba told THE KATHMANDU POST Tuesday [12 September].

We don't have any intention of waging political vendetta against the former government. But wherever we find proof of irregularities we will investigate the matter, the 49 year old Prime Minister said.

Deuba was speaking at his residence in Maharajgunj from where he is yet to shift to the PM's official residence in Baluwatar.

Earlier in the day, the Nepali Congress [NC] leader who was appointed the nation's fourth Prime Minister after the restoration of Democracy, announced a small provisional cabinet which included one member each from its junior partners RPP [Rashtriya Prajatantra Party] and Nepal Sadbhavana Party.

Prime Minister Deuba holds 18 portfolios and two of his NC colleagues hold two others.

Asked how he would function with 18 portfolios, the young prime minister replied, this is only a provisional cabinet. We had very little time to work out the portfolios. But there will certainly be expansion in the near future. He, however, sidestepped a question on whether he intended to include a Deputy Prime Minister in his cabinet.

I don't want to say anything on that yet, he said. Reiterating that the new government's priority would be political stability, clean administration and fiscal discipline, the Prime Minister added, we have to raise the administration's morale for they are the ones who implement the policies.

Speaking on implementation, Prime Minister Deuba continued: Implementation of policies depends upon will and determination. Our party and coalition partners have enough determination and I don't think there will be any confusion.

Pressed to reply on how he would reconcile the divergent views of the NC and its coalition partners regarding Tanakpur [power project] and the citizenship issue, the prime minister said that the parties had reached an agreement on moving ahead on the basis of understanding.

We will present Tanakpur in parliament, and ensure that the citizenship question will be resolved. No Nepali should face the problem of citizenship, Deuba said. Replying to a question on the economy and the budget, Deuba said, we will have to study all aspects of the economy. It is too early to say what actions are needed. But we will consult economists and experts and come up with the needed measures.

The ruling coalition is set to introduce a new budget in the forthcoming ninth session of parliament, overriding the one presented by the UML government in July.

Asked when he would face the confidence vote, mandatory under the constitution, Deuba said, I have to consult the Speaker to fix a date.

Article Detects 'Fragility' in New Government

BK1409114595 Kathmandu THE KATHMANDU POST in English 13 Sep 95

[Article by Akhilesh Upadhyay: "Consensus Is Government's Greatest Challenge" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kathmandu — Contrary to reassuring comments from Nepali Congress [NC], RPP [Rashtriya Prajatantra Party] and NSP [Nepal Sadbhavana Party] leaders, the fragility of the new three-party alliance is slowly making itself evident.

When Nepali Congress parliamentary leader Sher Bahadur Deuba was named Prime Minister Monday [11 September], everyone thought there would be a minimum of fuss in selecting coalition partners. After all he had staked a claim to form an alternative government with a show of majority, a good three months ago.

A five-member coalition was finally announced later Tuesday. As had been anticipated, legislators from all three parties that voted for the no-confidence motion tabled against the UML [United Marxist-Leninist] Prime Minister Mana Mohan Adhikari have been inducted in the ministry. Conspicuous however are the omission of the Deputy Prime Ministers post expected to be filled in by an RPP legislator; and the Prime Minister's hold over all-important portfolios as Home, Finance, Foreign Affairs and Defense, hinting at the fierce battle that lies ahead in sharing portfolios. The issue is expected to be addressed once the coalition gets a vote of confidence from the House of Representatives.

If the tug-of-war among parties that have refused to see eye to eye in the parliament is to a certain extent understandable, more disturbing are the signs of fresh intra-party squabbles that have surfaced in the last two days. It will be some time before the Nepali Congress buries its infighting for good. Just as the party seemed

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to have left behind the infamous Koirala versus Rebels row, other political equations are emerging that threaten to destabilize the party. Some people view Deuba's prime ministership as a shift of power from the far East, the traditional bastion of Nepali politics, to the far West. Notably, RPP leader and former prime minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand, who enjoys majority in the RPP camp, also hails from the far West. The second NC member in the current five-member coalition Khum Bahadur Khadka tilts the NC balance in favour of western Nepal, very much a political backwater.

RPP, the second largest partner in the coalition isn't free of the intra-party rivalries either. RPP legislator Pashupati Shamsher Rana, billed earlier as Deputy Prime Minister in the coalition, is said to have been voted out by the party's 19-member parliamentary party. Padma Sundar Lawati has expressed his reservations citing his seniority while Prakash Chandra Lohani defeated Rana in the deputy prime ministerial race decided by a majority vote late Monday, a source said. The news however couldn't be confirmed officially.

Amid all this chaos, one hopes that the much talked about 22- member ministerial equation with 15 members from the Nepali Congress, six from the RPP, and a single NSP representation still holds good.

When the three opposition parties went for the vote of no- confidence, they stressed that there would be very cordial power- sharing once the UML was ousted, for they had taken a lesson from history. A few days prior to the vote, an NC legislator told THE KATHMANDU POST that everything remains settled as far as the coalition is concerned, declining to spell out the details, saying that would be premature. If communist-fearing Nepali Congress and RPP fail to capitalize on fresh opportunities offered to them by the reinstatement of parliament, the blame this time will squarely lie on them.

Pakistan

Business Ties Reportedly Established With Israel

BK1409093495 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 14 Sep 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi — As the number of Muslim countries having diplomatic ties with Israel grows steadily, in a low key, yet an extremely significant move, Pakistan carried out a business transaction with Tel Aviv late last month according to documents obtained by The News Intelligence Unit (NIU).

According to these documents Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) successfully negotiated and purchased a consignment of aircraft parts from the state owned Israel Aircraft Industries Limited [IAIL] late last month. Sources said that PIA had obtained government approval before finalising this business deal with Israel.

The consignment from the Israel Aircraft Industries, with its headquarters at Ben Gurion International Airport, Tel Aviv was carried to Quaid-e-Azam International Airport by an Air France Flight AF 6740 late last month.

The documents showed that the consignment was booked in Tel Aviv by Fritz Companies Israel T, Ltd 34, Beat Hilal Street Tel Aviv for Controller Stores Purchases, Purchases PIA building Karachi Airport on August 17, 1995.

The exact amount paid for the consignment is not known, but the sources said, that it was around US$1 million. Air France was, however paid US$21008 [as published] to airlift the aircrafts parts from Tel Aviv to Karachi via Paris. The total weight of the consignment is 2,572 Kg distributed in 10 cartons.

Highly informed sources said that the order for these aircraft parts from Israel originated from the Engineering Department of PIA, where in a strange development last month its highly professional Director Engineering, who was touring United States, was suddenly replaced by another official whose retirement was due in November this year.

Sources revealed that before finally approving the first official business transaction between the state of Israel and Pakistan, PIA Managing Director Air Marshal (Retired) Farooq Umar had held detailed discussions with important government personalities. The deal, sources said, is the first step towards establishing normal diplomatic ties with Israel.

Surprisingly, senior security officials posted in Karachi were not aware of PIA's business deal with Tel Aviv. These officials were busy late Wednesday [13 September] night in seeking clarification from their bosses in Islamabad.

Although the PIA-IAIL contact is the first official connection between the two government organisations of Pakistan and Israel but since the last few years Pakistani diplomats, posted all over the world, believed to have shared views with their Israeli counterparts during social and diplomatic gatherings. These contacts, sources said, intensified as leading Muslim nations, such as Jordan, Morrocco and Tunisia established diplomatic ties with Israel.

Intelligence officials said that during the Afghan war highly skilled Israelis provided guerilla training to some Afghan groups and in the later stage of the Afghan

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war the chief of Pakistan's most respected intelligence service had held a top secret meeting with a senior Mossad official in Vienna. The meeting was connected with the Afghan war.

Early this year Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin paid a private visit to the state of Oman. The Syrians have held talks with Israel officials and a large delegation of American Jews paid a visit to Saudi Arabia also.

Efforts To Resume Ties With Israel Criticized

BK1509112095 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 15 Sep 95 p 10

[Editorial: "Why Should There Be Commercial Ties With Israel?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, a soft spot is forming in the minds of certain Islamic (Arab) countries, and efforts are being made very quietly to resume diplomatic ties. Certain countries like Pakistan, however, continue to adopt a tough stance. Against this background, the report that a commercial deal was struck last month between Pakistan and Israel will be a cause for concern to Pakistan's nationalist circles. We are not in a position to review the accuracy of this report. The recent statement by the Pakistani foreign minister became the target of criticism among nationalist circles. In the light of that statement, some doubts cropped up among certain quarters that Pakistan is perhaps stabilizing its diplomatic ties with its greatest adversary, Israel. The statement, however, was later denied.

The main report mentioned above reveals that Pakistan International Airlines [PIA] has purchased spare parts and other equipment for its fleet after successful negotiations with Israel's Aircraft Industries Limited. Although the real cost of these materials could not be ascertained, the PIA has paid freight charges worth $1 million to Air France to bring a consignment of 10 crates weighing 2,572 kg from Israel to Karachi via Paris.

Israel is the only country in the world with whom Pakistan does not have any sort of ties. Israeli authorities were active in the past in hatching enormous and loathsome conspiracies against Pakistan. Joining hands with Indian authorities, they also fabricated a scheme to destroy the Kahuta nuclear research center; the Israeli lobby did not miss any opportunity to harm Pakistan. It is right that, after some understanding reached between Israel and PLO, certain Islamic countries have come forward to stabilize their ties with Israel. Pakistan, however, should think 101 times regarding whether or not Israel has abandoned its tendency to hatch vicious conspiracies against Pakistan before strengthening any kind of relations with that country. Has Israel desisted from its shameful efforts to harm Pakistan's interests by joining hands with India and other anti-Pakistani elements?

Cooperation With Iran in TV Programs Reported

LD1409160495 Tehran IRNA in English 2018 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Sept. 13, IRNA — Iran and Pakistan have agreed to cooperate in the area of television programmes and produce such shows and serials jointly:.

Deputy director of the overseas service of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), Mohammad Sarfaraz, and Director of Pakistan Television Mrs Ra'na Sheikh agreed on the advisability of cooperation between the television networks of Iran and Pakistan.

Iranian-Indian Gas Pipeline Reportedly Ruled Out

BK1509033195 Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 11 Sep 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — Pakistan has, ultimately decided not to permit laying of megapipeline of gas from Iran to India through the country's territorial waters, confining it to be laid over-land only.

The decision was taken in the Cabinet meeting, held some time back, contemplating various techno-economic, defence, and strategic repercussions, highly placed sources conceded to Business Recorder on Sunday [10 September].

Afterward, they said, a high level inter-ministerial meeting, participated by the representatives of ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Communication, Petroleum and sensitive agencies has also endorsed the Cabinet decision.

In the pretext of apprehensions permission for off-shore survey may also not be allowed to the consortium for which a request was made by Iran earlier, sources further disclosed.

An official said in economic terms the project will cost an additional burden of one and half time more. The estimated cost of the project is 10 to 12 billion dollars, he said. So the option is thus, ruled out. In technical terms an Indian experience for laying such another project with Oman was set as a test case. In the case of natural gas to be imported by India from Oman through an under water pipeline, the project, sources said ran into difficulties as the route of the proposed pipeline passed through a difficult terrain laden with troughs. Though the technology to lay the pipeline through the route could have been arranged, its cost was found to

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be exorbitant, they said. The difficulties involved in the case of Oman-India pipeline also apply on Iran-India pipeline project as the tentative root is more or less the same.

Sources further said though Pakistan could not restrict laying of any pipeline outside its territorial waters, it will set conditions ensuring for smooth, economic activities i.e. fishing, mining, etc., within its economic zones. In this case also it was apprehended that India could activate its naval fleets in the wake of protection measures for the proposed pipeline. Thus economic activities may be hit, they said. Sources said keeping in view the friendly, ties between the two countries (Pakistan and Iran) Pakistan will try to convince Iran on these issues persuading it for opting an overland pipeline, sources concluded.

Indian 'Propaganda Campaign' on PRC Ties Alleged

BK1409163695 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 1 Sep 95 p 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad (APP) — Reliable reports have revealed that India has continuously launched a propaganda campaign against Pakistan for its alleged involvement to support the anti-China elements in Tibet and Xinjiang province.

Observers, however, feel that it is a deliberate Indian effort to spoil the very existing intimate and brotherly relations between China and Pakistan in order to serve her vested regional expansionist ambitions.

India by doing so, also aims at shrouding her mischievous under hand activities that it has been sponsoring, hithertoforth, against China as part of its foreign policy. Viewed in historical perspective, it has been India which has given political asylum to the Dalai Lama and using him covertly in launching an incessant anti-China campaign to create political instability therein.

According to analysts it is not the government of India which has been always conspiring against China but even most of its prominent leaders have also been working in this direction and never missed a chance of help in dissidents to fan secessionist movements there. The "Himalaya Bachao Sammelan" and "Indian Committee for Action of Tibet" mostly comprising the leading politicians of different political parties, in a declaration had said that peace and security in Himalayas has been shattered from the moment China invaded Tibet. They also alleged that a large Chinese army stationed in the area had endangered the security of India and demanded Chinese withdrawal from "Aksai Chin" and from other disputed territories. They have been also accusing other China of maltreating Tibetan woman and children and forcing them to migrate to India and other countries.

India's allegation of showing Pakistan's involvement in helping some of the unsatisfied elements in Xinjiang is totally baseless and a blatant fabrication. Observers feel that the Xinjiang problem, if at all there is a problem, is China's internal matter. Historical facts reveal that the first movement was launched in 1932 by Shah Mansoor, who was killed in his struggle for independence of Xinjiang by the troops. Reportedly, some factions of the same movement having headquarters abroad, are involved in the present uprising and have established contacts with Taiwan. There is also every possibility of a secret hand of the RAW [Research and Analysis Wing], India's intelligence agency, in helping and instigating these government. Different wings of the RAW have been undeniably at work to support these elements.

It is pertinent to point out here that "non interference" in the internal matters of the neighbouring countries and adherence to the principle of "mutual co-existence" has been the basic hallmark of Pakistan's foreign policy. So much so that Pakistan has even never thought of interfering in the internal matters of India who is openly supporting anti-state elements in Pakistan, specially in Sindh. Pakistan's relations with China have been brotherly and time-tested and as such how could it think of betraying a friend. It is India which does not like these two countries to have friendly relations as it thinks these as an obstacle in the way of its hegemonic motives.

Under the prevailing global political scenario, India is playing second fiddle to the western scheming. According to the analysts, India is psychologically afraid of China's growing regional and global influence, economic development and moderate foreign policy which has earned her acceptance in the comity of nations. They also believe that in order to isolate Pakistan in the region, the only neighbouring country which could pose any challenge to Indian ambitions, it is an Indian compulsion to continuously fabricate false the two traditionally friendly countries. Observers, however, indicate that China fully understands the ploy and would never be misled by the blatant lies of the Indian government and its leadership.

President Visits Saudi Arabia for Pilgrimage

BK1509095595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari left Islamabad for Saudi Arabia this morning to perform the minor pilgrimage. The president will offer Friday prayers at the two holy places in Mecca and Medina and perform the minor pilgrimage. He will

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visit the Mausoleum of the Prophet, may God's mercy and blessing be upon him, and offer prayers at the Prophet's Mosque. The president will return home the same evening.

Minister Addresses India Talks, Kashmir Hostages

BK1409154595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has reaffirmed Pakistan's willingness to enter into negotiations with India provided the agenda includes the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir. He was talking to British MP Gerald Kaufman, who called on him in Islamabad today. The foreign minister said Pakistan has made several efforts in the past to seek mediation for the resolution of the Kashmir dispute and has also approached many countries in this regard, but the Indian leadership does not have the political will to resolve this issue.

The foreign minister assured the British MP that Pakistan will continue to make its best efforts to assist the embassies of the countries trying to secure the safe and unconditional release of the Western hostages in occupied Kashmir.

Minister Addresses Karachi Situation in Briefing

BK1509042695 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 14 Sep 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — Interior Minister Major General (retired) Nasirullah Babar said Wednesday [13 September] that the federal government was forcefully pursuing the case of repatriation of Altaf Hussain and had handed over more documented evidence against him to the Interpol.

He told a group of newsmen at his Parliament chamber that nearly 300 persons had been arrested on different charges in Karachi. Those found innocent during investigation have been released, he said.

The government would seek the repatriation of Javed Langra who was in India, the Interior Minister said, adding that evidence against him was being finalised. He said one of his close relative was an active member of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] similarly, the government will soon seek the return of Altaf Hussain's secretary, Nusrat Nadeem, who was deeply involved in sponsoring terrorist activities in Karachi.

General Babar said the government has already tracked down the remittance of 1,75,000 dollars to Nusrat Nadeem which were collected in Karachi to be spent on the welfare of people. Evidence has also been obtained about the remittance of another 4 lakhs of dollars which were collected by an NGO [nongovernment organization], Khidmat Khaliq, by selling animal skins.

He said peace had been restored to a large extent in Karachi because the terror of the Altaf Group had been eliminated. He said now the hustle and bustle in the city could be noticed even late in the night. He said the people were now forthcoming in providing information about the terrorists to the government.

He said the shoot-on-sight orders had prevented the terrorists form laying havoc during the strikes called by the Altaf Group. He said a few terrorists who were still hidden in the city would be arrested very soon. We are after them and narrowing down the circle around them.

Minister Comments on Karachi Peace Talks, Punjab

BK1409160695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Professor N.D. Khan, the federal minister for law and parliamentary affairs, says the talks between the government and the Altaf Group negotiating teams on reconciliation, compromise, and a democratic settlement will yield some positive results. Replying to a speech by opposition leader Mohammad Nawaz Sharif in the National Assembly today, N.D. Khan said the situation in Karachi has improved significantly.

Regarding developments in Punjab, the federal minister said the change in the province was entirely political, democratic, and peaceful. He said the action in Punjab has strengthened the Pakistan Democratic Front. He questioned the role of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Group in the Punjab situation and rejected allegations of any horse trading or use of threats. In his speech earlier, opposition leader Mohammad Nawaz Sharif alleged that there was horse trading and that members had been pressured. He was critical of the situation in Karachi, which he said was affecting the country's economy. Nawaz Sharif said the country is facing price hikes, unemployment, and lawlessness. He said the demand of the hour is for us to sit together and resolve the problems facing the country in a democratic spirit.

PML-J Said To Continue Alliance With Bhutto Party

BK1009101395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Addressing party workers in Lahore today, Hamid Nasir Chatha, president of the Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo [PML-J] group, said that his party will continue to remain a constituent of the

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Pakistan Democratic Front [PDF]. He said all national assembly members and all but one or two members of the provincial assembly belonging to the party are fully united and support the central leadership of the PML-J.

Makhdum Altaf Ahmad, a former senior provincial minister of the Pakistan People's Party and parliamentary leader in the Punjab Assembly, has said that the PDF enjoys a clear majority of 150 members in the 248-member assembly and that it can form the government without any hindrance. Addressing a news conference in Lahore this evening, he said the PDF will decide about the likely candidate [for the chief ministership of Punjab] in a couple of days. He also pointed out that there is no dispute over the selection of the candidate and that the matter will be decided by the leaders of the two parties.

Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir, has said he has no information about the formation of any grand alliance in Punjab Province and said that no person or party has contacted him in this connection. He disclosed this while talking to newsmen after a meeting with former Punjab Chief Minister Mian Manzoor Ahmad Wattoo, who called on him in Lahore this afternoon.

Opposition Leader Seeks To Restore CM's Powers

BK1409094895 Islamabad THE NATION in English 14 Sep 95 p 1, 11

[Unattributed article: "Nawaz Seeks Restoration of CM's Powers; Election of Non-PPP Victory of PML"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore — Opposition Leader Nawaz Sharif has said that election of a non-PPP [Pakistan People's Party] candidate as Punjab chief minister [CM] is the victory of truth, honesty and commitment and defeat of corruption, false, horse-trading, fascism and negative forces.

He vowed that they will leave no stone unturned for the restoration of the chief minister's constitutional powers and will defeat PPP on this front also. He observed this while addressing his partymen at his residence on Wednesday. Ch Shujaat Hussain, Ch. Pervaiz Elahi, Sardar Zulfiqar Khosa, Tabish Alvari, Badshah Khan Afridi, Ch Riaz and many others also addressed the function.

He said Benazir Bhutto's approach is undemocratic and by depriving chief minister of his powers, she wants to complete her fascist designs and main objective behind this move was to destabilise a constitutional institution. But they will not allow her to do so, said he. He said with the support of the people, they will not allow her to render the chief minister powerless. He said when the chief ministers of other provinces are enjoying their full constitutional power then why the Punjab chief minister has been deprived of it.

He said they have achieved their target and blocked the way of PPP's chief minister and defeated those who camped in Lahore to get control of Punjab by purchasing loyalties of the members by using the state machinery and crores of rupees. He said they defeated fascism because they believed in principled politics and it is the reason that masses are with them. He said credit goes to the members of Punjab parliamentary members who despite pressure and threats did not change their loyalties. Nawaz reminded that now they are in 1990's and not in 1970's and the masses are marching to achieve the goal of the Quaid-i-Azam while during Bhutto's regime they were pushed towards disaster. He said if the same spirit remains, they will soon achieve the goals of Quaid-i-Azam.

Nawaz Sharif said he took all steps for the betterment of the Muslim League and the country. He said the way opposition leader Ch Pervaiz Elahi handled the situation and guided his members was commendable. He also appreciated the role of Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, Ghouz Ali Shah, Mian Azhar, Sardar Zulfiqar Khosa and other leaders. He said they have set a new trend and those who had switched their loyalties are not in a position to face their voters in their area. He said even turncoats' families will not allow them to enter their homes. They have put their political future at stake and the people will never forgive them.

Opposition leader said through withdrawal of the powers of the chief minister Benazir Bhutto has attacked the provincial autonomy and tried to deprive Punjab of its rights. He warned Benazir Bhutto that they will not allow her to do so. He urged his partymen to continue their struggle unless governor returns the powers of the chief minister. He said it is the second attack of Benazir Bhutto on Punjab.

Nawaz Sharif said the situation is moving rapidly towards mid-term elections and urged his partymen to prepare themselves for it. He said their top priority is to save Pakistan and they are least bothered about the Assemblies membership. He also asked his allied parties leaders Shahibzada Fazal Karim of JUP [Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan] and Haji Abdul Razzaq of Jamiat-i-Ahle Hadith to contact with Ulema and hold conventions to mobilise them. He asked them to do it without wasting any moment and added if the Ulema are united at a platform then Benazir Bhutto will find no place to take refuge.

Ch Shujaat said that after two and a half years' struggle, they achieved the target and credit goes to the

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leadership. He said they will also foil the bid to rule Punjab through remote control.

Ch Pervaiz Elahi said that depriving PPP of Punjab government is opposition's victory and they have refuted the impression given by their opponents that they do not know politics. He said PPP members were so disappointed that none of them congratulated Sardar Arif Nikai, the new chief minister. He said that speaker also did not invite him or the leader of the House to deliver their speeches and prorogued the House abruptly. He said it was the victory of Muslim League and the defeat of PPP.

PML [Pakistan Muslim League] (N) Candidate Withdraws After "Underhand" Deal

PML(N) MPA's [member of Provincial Assembly] Kh Muhammad Islam and Iqbal Khakwani have termed the election of Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Arif Nakai as the indirect victory of Mian Nawaz Sharif. Talking to THE NATION on Wednesday after the special session of the Punjab Assembly wherein Sardar Arif Nakai was elected Punjab chief minister, they said the PML (N) withdrew its candidate because they had struck an underhand deal with PML (J) Chief Hamid Nasir Chattha to support each other in the Punjab as well as in the Centre. Giving the details of the deal, they said Hamid Nasir Chattha met with Mian Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday at his model town house in which both PML factions leaders decided that PML (N) would support PML (J) candidate in Punjab and vis-a-vis PML (J) would support PML (N)'s any move to bring a change in the Centre.

They further said the meeting was held at the house of Mian Nawaz Sharifs and attended by Pir Pagaro, Mian Nawaz Sharif, Hamid Nasir Chattha, Mian Manzoor Wattoo and Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan. Later the meeting venue was shifted to some unknown place.

They further said the entire move was initiated by the five PML MPA's comprising Chaudhry Muhammad Farooq, Muhammad Shah Khaga, Ghulam Farid Chishti, Johnson Michael and Javaid Daultana.

Sri Lanka

Official Comments on Crash of Transport Aircraft

BK1409120595 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A brand new Sri Lankan Air Force Antanov An-32 transport aircraft carrying troops to the Palaly Air Base in the north crashed into the sea 20 miles west of Ja-Ela, killing 68 soldiers, two policemen, and a five-member Sri Lanka Air Force crew, Air Commodore Jayalath Weerakkody said yesterday.

The wreckage of the 225 million rupee plane acquired two and a half months ago and the bodies of the victims had not been recovered till dawn today. A helicopter had found a 200 square meter oil patch and few boxes of identity cards, a few pieces of clothing, and two pieces of the aircraft, the control (?board), and a fire extinguisher about 20 miles west of Ja-Ela, north of Colombo.

Air Commodore Weerakkody said the Navy had searched area up to depth of 75 meters but no trace of the wreckage have been located. The sea is about 1,000 meters deep in that area. The Navy and Air Force helicopters have searched about 30 miles west, south, and north of the area and found no trace of the wreckage, he said.

Air Commodore Weerakkody, director, operations, of the Sri Lanka Air Force, told the packed weekly press briefing at the Tourist Board Auditorium in Colombo the exact cause of the disaster had not been established and a court of inquiry had been appointed to investigate. He gave five possible causes for the crash: Bad weather, mechanical defect, pilot error, sabotage, and missile attack.

He positively rejected the possibility of a missile attack, saying that the use of a shoulder-fired missile from rooftop was impossible. The plane was flying on an unusually new route; it was enveloped by clouds; and it was about 20 miles off the coast, a distance that cannot be reached by missiles.

He said that the possibility of pilot error is also being looked at. The pilot, Squadron Leader R. Pakiyanadan, had logged over 8,000 flying hours and 200 hours on the Antanov. He was one of those who had flown the plane from Ukraine to Colombo. He is an instructor and a flying examiner. Flight Lieutenant K.A.J.R. Kahendawala, the co-pilot, had 3,800 flying hours, 200 on the An-32. The rest of the crew were also experienced airmen. Air Commodore Weerakkody expressed the view that a mechanical fault and the weather were the most possible causes of the accident.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1044 GMT on 14 September in a similar report adds: "The loss of a transport aircraft taking troops to Sri Lanka's northern war zone is a major blow to a planned offensive against Tamil Tiger rebels this month, officials said Thursday [14 September]. The Russian-built Antonov aircraft which crashed in the sea near Colombo on Wednesday was one of three AN-32B planes forming the main air bridge to the besieged Jaffna peninsula, defence officials

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said. 'The crash is a serious set back to logistics. It could not have come at a worst time. Even before the crash, the airforce was in need of more planes to ferry food and troops to Jaffna,' a senior defence officer said. Chief military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe admitted the loss of the plane was a set back said it was 'temporary.'"

["Police have begun questioning three policemen who loaded cigarettes, the only cargo, onto the aircraft, defences sources said. Suspicions have been raised about a bomb smuggled in with cigarettes. The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] remained silent about the crash. Its clandestine radio, the Voice (?of the Tigers) reported the crash without comment, rebroadcasting reports from the state-run Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation."

["Navy sources said part of a body recovered from the crash site Wednesday was identified Thursday as the flight navigator, Jesan Martenstyn, by the victim's father, himself a navy diver and who joined the search operation, navy sources said. 'No other bodies have been recovered. There is no hope of getting any more because the plane had gone down 1,000 meters under water,' a navy officer said. Navy craft found packages of cigarettes, a large oil slick, an aircraft fire extinguisher, the joystick, files and a heap of identity cards of the victims.

["The cause of the AN-32 crash was Thursday being debated in defence circles here with pilots arguing that the sturdy aircraft was able to withstand bad weather. Most pilots argue that sabotage or a technical failure was the cause. The pilot of the ill-fated AN-32 completed a turning manoeuvre without going to the turbulent weather when it suddenly lost radio and radar contact with air traffic controllers, according to the air force."]

[In a separate report at 1021 GMT on 14 September, AFP adds: "Sri Lanka on Thursday suspended all domestic flights following the suspected sabotage of an air force transport plane which blew up in mid-air, killing all 75 security personnel on board, officials said. Director-General of Civil Aviation Upali Malalgoda said the defence ministry had imposed an indefinite ban on domestic flights 'with immediate effect.' Malalgoda would not give a reason for the ban but aviation sources said it was imposed in the wake of Wednesday's crash of the military transporter off the island's west coast just 20 minutes after taking off from the Ratmalana domestic airport south of here. The ban also came amid reports that the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas planned to either charter or hijack a private aircraft from Ratmalana to bomb the parliamentary complex here."]

Further on Official's Remarks

BK1409142895 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 14 Sep 95

[Report by T. Sabaratnam and Pramod de Silva: "Mechanical Fault or Weather Downed Antonov?" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A brand new Sri Lanka Air Force [SLAF] Antonov AN-32 transport aircraft carrying troops to the Palaly airbase in the north crashed into the sea 20 miles west of Ja-Ela killing 68 soldiers, 2 policemen and the 5-member SLAF crew, Air Commodore Jayalath Weerakkody said yesterday.

The wreckage of the Rs. [rupees] 225 million plane acquired two and a half months ago, and the bodies of the victims had not been recovered till nightfall yesterday.

"A helicopter had found a 200 metre by 200 metre oil patch and a few boxes, identity cards, a few pieces of clothing and two pieces of the aircraft, a control rod and a fire extinguisher about 20 miles west of Ja-Ela", Weerakkody said.

He said the navy had searched the area upto a depth of 75 metres but no trace of the wreckage had been located. The sea is about 100 metres deep in that area.

The navy and air force helicopters had searched about 30 miles west, south and north of the area and found no trace of the wreckage, he said.

Air Commodore Weerakkody, director of operations of the SLAF, told the packed weekly press briefing at the Tourist Board auditorium the exact cause of the disaster had not been established and a Court of Inquiry had been appointed to investigate.

He gave five possible causes for the crash — bad weather, mechanical defect, pilot error, sabotage and missile attack.

He positively rejected the possibility of a missile attack saying that the use of a shoulder fired missile from a roof top was impossible.

The plane was flying on an unusually new route, it was enveloped by clouds and it was about 20 miles off the coast, a distance that cannot be reached by a missile.

He said the police had been asked to look into the sabotage aspect. The plane carried four big boxes of cigarettes consigned to the police at Palaly. In accordance with security practice, two policemen physically accompanied the package on the flight.

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The cigarettes were brought to the Ratmalana airport at 4 a.m. The boxes were scanned by a metal detector and were physically checked by the security personnel.

The two policemen who brought the cigarettes to the airport were on the plane and were among those killed.

Weerakkody said if any bomb had been planted in the cigarette boxes and had exploded, the debris would have spread over a wide area and there is no evidence of that.

"We are not ruling out sabotage altogether. The police had been asked to inquire into it and the court of inquiry will go into it", Weerakkody said.

He said the possibility of pilot error is also being looked at. The pilot, Squadron Leader R. Pakianathan, had logged over 8000 flying hours and 200 hours on the Antonov. He was one of those who had flown the plane from the Ukraine to Colombo. He is an instructor and a flying examiner.

Flt. Lt. [Flight Lieutenant] K.A.J.P. Kahandawala, the co-pilot had 3,800 flying hours, 200 on the AN-32. The rest of the crew were also experienced airmen.

Weerakkody expressed the view that a mechanical fault and the weather were the most probable causes of the accident.

He read the tape recording of the conversation the pilot had with the radar controller at Katunayake to make this point.

At 7.19 a.m., nine minutes after the take off from Ratmalana the radar controller at Katunayake asked the pilot: "Are you clear of the weather?".

Pilot: Negative, sir, We have a small problem with the instruments.

Radar Controller: You will be heading into a bad weather patch on your left extending upto 35 miles.

Pilot: Confirm. Left is clear?

Radar Controller: It (bad weather patch) is extending to 25 miles as per on 265 radial.

Pilot: We would like to descend and get back to Ratmalana. Confirm.

Radar Controller: Turn left and continue.

Pilot: Yes.

Radar Controller: Observed. You are turning left.

Navigator: Speed increasing 700.

That was the last heard by the Radar Controller. Then the plane disappeared from the radar.

At 7.21 the Radar Controller radioed: I lost you. Say where you are heading?

Weerakkody said that recording leads one to surmise that the crash was weather associated and failure of the instruments too might have occurred. He said there is no evidence to show which instrument had failed.

He said two aircraft that landed at Katunayake around the same time had reported bad weather around Katunayake.

The plane was at an altitude of about 8,000 feet and was climbing steeply to its flight height of 21,000 feet. At the time of the crash it should have been at 14,000 feet, Weerakkody said.

He said if the navigator's comment that the plane was gaining speed and the 700 mentioned denoted the speed of the aircraft in kilometers, it was flying at speed above the speed its frame could stand. The aircraft had been built for a maximum speed of 520 km per hour.

The aircraft might have acquired a speed of 700 km per hour because it was diving and at that speed the plane could have just disintegrated, Weerakkody said.

He said the Ukraine manufacturers had been informed of the crash and the two other AN-32s had been grounded temporarily.

Military spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe said the loss of an aircraft is a setback but other planes are flying to the north.

Aviation Authorities Suspend All Domestic Flights

BK1509121395 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 15 Sep 95

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Aviation authorities have temporarily suspended all domestic flights and training flights, a government news release issued on Thursday [14 September] night said.

International flights to and from Colombo are not affected in anyway as a result of the suspension of domestic flights and these operations are continuing as normal, the release added.

No reasons were given for the decision to suspend internal flights. The Director of Civil Aviation (DCA) Mr. M.L.U. de S. Malalgoda who issued the order said the ban will be effective on all domestic flights until further notice. He referred further inquiries to the Secretary Defence. No defence ministry spokesman was available for comment.

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According to the order issued to the domestic airlines by the DCA, all flights covering both fixed wing aircraft and helicopters including training flights were suspended until further notice.

There are ten domestic carriers in the country.

There were some speculation on the possibility that the ban was connected to the Sri Lanka Air Force [SLAF] AN-32 crash or to earlier reports that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] planned to bomb parliament.

Mr. Rohan Nanayakkara, President of the Civil Aircraft Operators Association (CAOA) was quoted by Reuters saying: "We respect the security concerns of the government. But the whole thing is senseless".

"Whenever there is an incident of this kind (the Antonov crash), the government bans domestic flights", Nanayakkara had said.

According to CAOA officials, domestic flights have been previously suspended when the LTTE shot down SLAF aircraft and also suspended after Mr. Gamini Dissanayake's assassination.

Private airlines were looking forward to good business when the high tourist season begins next month.

Colombo Security Tightened in Fear of LTTE Attack

BK1309155495 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 13 Sep 95

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Security is to be tightened at the parliamentary complex premises at Sri Jayawardenepura, Kotte following information that the Tigers [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam — LTTE] are trying to bomb parliament.

Detectives said some of the Tigers now in custody had said under interrogation that there was a plan to hire a private plane from Ratmalana, 17 kilometres south of the capital, to carry out the mission.

"We are still working on this information and hope to elicit more details," these sources said.

In the recent past certain politicians have changed their public schedules following the revelation by Tigers now held. Some politicians have also drawn attention to the possibility of a Tiger attack on parliament.

Meanwhile security in Colombo and the immediate suburbs have been tightened following reports that more Tigers are believed to be in the city on assignments on orders from the LTTE high command.

Nine suspects allegedly plotting to assassinate President Chandrika Kumaratunga are now in police custody.

Six suspects had been arrested over the past week and investigations have revealed that they have been studying the security system as well as behavioral patterns of the president.

One of the suspects in custody had admitted receiving special training in a South East Asian country, but this claim has not yet been verified.

Army Reportedly Continues Advance Against LTTE

BK1409121295 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Two Army brigades, comprising nearly 6,000 troops, who walked out of the Palaly military complex early on Tuesday [12 September] morning in a fresh offensive against LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] positions continued their advance without any resistance yesterday.

Military spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe said five soldiers were killed and 21 more injured when troops backed by air power attacked territory under LTTE control. At least 15 terrorists have been killed during the Army onslaught and 30 more seriously injured. Defense sources said the ground troops have been instructed to take (?out) LTTE mortar positions used in the past few days to attack the Palaly base. The troops have moved in the direction of Ponnalaikaduwan, Arialai, and Mallakan. A policemen and a civilian were killed in one of the LTTE attacks on the Palaly base. There was no damage to military installations.

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